

SEVEN DAYS



TIME TO
PICK THE
DAYSIES!

2012 ballot inside



Birth Rights

When a child has more than two parents, Vermont family law meets a new frontier

BY KEN PICARD P.23



ON THE RECORD

PAGE 12

Donovan admits to past assault charge

MAYOR AT BAT

PAGE 30

On the ball field with Niro

STAND-UP SPORT

PAGE 38

A wave of paddleboarders in VT

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Stay Cool

The 2012 Burlington Jazz Festival came to a close this past weekend. We did it stylishly.

Even though the weather didn't always cooperate this year, jazz first and foremost has aided the start of summer with a gig at early morning jazz, Burlington's jazz scene, and a parade and festival in downtown Burlington.

For this year's festival, Burlington hosted the annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The festival was the last of its kind in the city. It was a celebration of the city's jazz scene. There was plenty of jazz, too. Jazz legends like Jimmy Cliff, Duke Ellington, and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. And the festival was a celebration of the city's jazz scene. There was plenty of jazz, too. Jazz legends like Jimmy Cliff, Duke Ellington, and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

If you're looking for a good time, the festival was a celebration of the city's jazz scene. There was plenty of jazz, too. Jazz legends like Jimmy Cliff, Duke Ellington, and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. And the festival was a celebration of the city's jazz scene. There was plenty of jazz, too. Jazz legends like Jimmy Cliff, Duke Ellington, and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Looking for the on-airing jazz gigs?
Visit www.burlingtonjazzfestival.org



Chris McBride

By [illegible]

facing facts



HOORAY, JUST IN!

A Vermont townhouse that was a total loss in the 11 days after a fire broke out in the townhouse. The townhouse was a total loss in the 11 days after a fire broke out in the townhouse.



SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Our Vermont townhouse was a total loss in the 11 days after a fire broke out in the townhouse. The townhouse was a total loss in the 11 days after a fire broke out in the townhouse.



FREEBAGS?

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HAZARD REMEDIATION

The Burlington Free Press has a new website. The website is a new website. The website is a new website. The website is a new website.

NEWS FACTS COMPILED BY [illegible]



\$5M

That's how much money the mountain-bike industry brings to the Burlington area, according to Vermont Public Radio.

TOP FIVE

MOST POPULAR ITEM

1. "Take Back" by Kathryn Flagg. At the Burlington School District, Kathryn Flagg is a teacher who has been teaching for 10 years. She is a teacher who has been teaching for 10 years.
2. "Unemployment Counting" by Alan Lewis. A part of the local news, it is a report on the unemployment count in the Burlington area.
3. "Vermont is Still Shopping for a Grocery Store" by Caryn Hest. The residents of the Burlington area are still shopping for a grocery store.
4. "Vermont is Paying Some Taxes to Take Back" by Kathryn Flagg. A report on the taxes that the Burlington area is paying to take back.
5. "Vermont is Paying Some Taxes to Take Back" by Kathryn Flagg. A report on the taxes that the Burlington area is paying to take back.

tweet of the week:

Unemployment is a problem in the Burlington area. The unemployment count is a problem in the Burlington area.

Follow @burlingtonpublicradio on Twitter for more news and information.

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WHAT IS SULTANA?

[Re "So Long, Sultana" Sen. Hinda Miller Stages Her Exit" May 30] According to my copy of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, a "sultana" is a small, brown robin.

CAROL BROWN
MONTPELIER

"HORROR" IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Since I also did not attend ECHO Lake Agassiz and Science Center's latest exhibit, "Our Body" I feel I am at least as qualified to comment on Kim Mifflin Fortin's review about how it was a "vaccinal setback" [Feedback, "Blemer Show" May 30]. In short, he considered it stupidly as a money-making play with no value at all to the public in general. The fact that



this person didn't even see the exhibit, coupled with his very right-wing statement directed at parents who take their children to it — "People can't be trusted to know on their own what's appropriate" — reminds me how some folks absolutely revel in the attempt to control who sees what. If this person had actually gone to see "Our Body" perhaps the apocryphal of the human body would have taken on a whole new meaning. When one sees just how lucrative and delicate the carriage of our science really is, perhaps writing scathing letters to the editor would seem less important.

Christopher Hawkey
BARRE

DISRESPECTFUL AND WRONG

After seeing Tim Newcomb's political cartoon in the May 30 issue of *Severe Days*, I felt I needed to write. To equate the tens of thousands of American men and women, like myself, who served their country with honor and self-sacrifice to cover us in danger and completely disrespectful to all these Americans who served this country.

And to add insult to injury. The drawing of the American flag shows it unfurled in the wrong direction! If you are going to be disrespectful, at least get it right!

Robert J. Harwood
HIGHGATE

F-35S AWAY

[Re "F-35 or Bunt. Other Towns Clamor for 'The Most Expensive Weapon Ever'" May 30] The information the public received concerning the JetBlue levels grossly contradicts the Lockheed Martin report — 800s versus 1600s. In November 2004, a Pentagon report cited 13 serious safety issues with the F-35. Many of these are exceedingly dangerous to the general public. Hopefully, they will leave their jets at one of the two preferred bases that are located away from residential neighborhoods. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Jerry Bourque
COLCHESTER

SOUTHBOUND F-35?

Send planes to Burlington, we can use the jobs that go with them. [Re "F-35 or Bunt. Other Towns Clamor for 'The Most Expensive Weapon Ever'" May 30] This part of Vermont is not rich enough to turn down all the good-paying jobs that go with these planes.

James McSherry
DORCHESTER

BIKE PATH BENEFITS

I am so excited that repair work has begun on the Colchester and Allen Point causeways. [Burlington Area Bike Paths Are All They're Cracked Up to Be" April 25] Both were badly damaged by flooding last spring. These repairs are due to the tremendous dedication of the officials in Colchester and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and I am thankful to all who are making them a reality. The causeways and the bike ferry are true gems that bring people here and are precious to those who use them. I look forward to riding the bike ferry all season next year!

Alex McHenry
SOUTH BURLINGTON

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- THU 6-10 SUPER 8 SMP
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- FRI 6-10 BOB HANSEN SMP
- SAT 6-10 FLAMINGO TOWN
- SAT 6-10 LITTLE AND THINGS TOWN
- SUN 6-10 CHAMBERLAIN TOWN
- SUN 6-10 JAY MARON TOWN
- MON 6-10 MICHAEL MARON BAND TOWN
- TUE 6-10 SHANE HANSEN TOWN
- AC CAROL 6-10 JAY MARON & MICHAEL HANSEN

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STUFF TO DO

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CLASSIFIED

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Stack in Vermont 201: Heart of the Islands Bike Tour.
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This year's tour happens on or July 16.





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MUST SEE MUST DO THIS WEEK

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THURSDAY 14 & FRIDAY 15

Fully Exposed

Generally regarded as one of the world's top sex-employment scenes, choreographer John Jasperin guides the countertenors and dancers in Fort Meade's *Swindlers*. Quick-witted local and gender-swapping performers in female and male roles—be aware, in fact, that the male dancers perform latently nude! Try to keep your jaw off the floor when the **John Jasperin Company** presents this thought-provoking work at the Flyer.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 48

WEDNESDAY 20

State of Play

Having played 900 shows in 44 states over the last four years, it's touring delirio! **These United States** make one thing perfectly clear: They're no joke. It's that only underlined by the fact that their fifth album since 2008 is out this week. Expect cotton candy arrangements, rousing folk ballads, psych pop and good, old-fashioned rock at the Markey House next Wednesday.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 52 AND OUR DATE ON PAGE 50

4

THURSDAY 14

Grape Escape

Nothing beats sipping a glass of wine while wandering through grapevines. Unless, of course, there's no wine involved. The summer-long **Season of Wine Vineyard of Concord Series** is an enlightening experience—and the Thursday night tunes coincide this week with the Rhythm Room's.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

5

SATURDAY 16

Knead to Know

Where can you get a loaf or with a dab of freshly baked sourdough? Probably exclusively at this weekend's **Bread and Puppet Museum Open House**, marking the 10th season of the puppet art and political theater troupe. Here, bread has sustenance comes in the shape of some of the world's biggest puppets.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

6

SATURDAY 16

Talk of the Town

Light the candles—Mile Festival is all grown up. As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, residents feel the past and present at **Peaceful Rebel**, a music festival and street fair that has grown from the town's first annual, being by far local and regional acts of historic buildings, wine and beer tastings, and tunes by Joshua Finkbe and the Red, Green, and Blue.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

7

THURSDAY 14

Word Up

Nothing is as versatile as words in theater settings, but **An Evening of Letters With Mark Usher** at the exception. The Vermont writer's act runs through the duals of words through type—writing fast back—in this unique exploration of the ways we communicate, also a fundraiser for Usher's forthcoming novel *Amos* on in June.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

Find local food/culture story on Mark Usher in the *Green Days* section at wwwday.com

TUESDAY 19 &

WEDNESDAY 20

Second to Nun

Looking for laughs? The **Second to Nun** Michael's Playhouse series opener could be between comic professionals and a whole nation for **Don Guggino** alone comedy **Nuniverse**, which the L&L's actors of *Madagascar* stage a talent show fundraiser after a case of lost parking spots. 52 runs of the week then make the musical plays out through June 30.

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everything else...

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T.J. Comes Clean



The man who wants to be Vermont's chief prosecutor hasn't always stayed on the right side of the law. Twenty years ago, Chittenden County State's Attorney **T.J. DONOVAN** was arrested after a drunken fight and charged with aggravated assault.

Donovan describes the incident as a "fight" between two groups of young men on Church Street who "probably had too much to drink." Donovan was 18 years old at the time and had recently graduated from Burlington High School. The fight left one man with a clipped tooth, for which Donovan was held responsible.

As part of a plea deal, the aggravated-assault charge was reduced to misdemeanor simple assault, and Donovan received a three-year deferred sentence. After completing 100 hours of community service and an alcohol assessment — and paying the victim roughly \$1,000 in restitution — the crime was expunged from Donovan's record.

"I did something stupid that I regret, that I'm ashamed about, that I've taken responsibility for, that happened in this town I grew up in, that embarrassed my family," Donovan says. "The worse that does is I've tried to learn from it."

Does a drunken, violent incident that took place when Donovan was just out of high school raise concerns about his suitability for the state's top law enforcement job? Quite the contrary, Donovan insists. He says the incident testified as to his unique understanding of what it's like to screw up as a young man.

"Because of my own personal struggles and that embarrassment and shame that is still part of me close to 20 years later, I have great empathy for people who struggle. I have great empathy for people who need a helping hand. I have great empathy for people who deserve a second chance because I was the beneficiary of a lot of second chances," Donovan said. "I would say this gives me great insight into what we can do differently in the criminal justice system. For lived it and I've tried to give back through the work I've done as a prosecutor."

Donovan is engaged in a heated race with 35-year incumbent **MIKE SORRELL** for the Democratic nomination for AG. Though he has twice won for state's attorney in Vermont's most populous county, Donovan's criminal record has

not been previously reported. Fair Game received an anonymous tip through the mail about the incident, which Donovan immediately confirmed when asked.

"I have no clue where this came from, but I'm not surprised that with two and a half months to go [until the election], somebody writes an anonymous letter about something that occurred 20 years ago," he says.

Asked to comment on the issue, Sorrell says, "I'm sure that whatever happened, he regrets, and it's in the past and that's where I'm going to leave it."

As state's attorney, Donovan says he has often raised the subject of his troubled youth.

I DID SOMETHING STUPID THAT I REGRET, THAT I'M ASHAMED ABOUT, THAT I'VE TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR... I'VE TRIED TO LEARN FROM IT.
T.J. DONOVAN

"I've tried to use it as a teachable moment for a lot of young people, to tell them while they're in court that this does not have to define them — that they can learn from that and they can emerge stronger from it," he says.

Donovan says he struggled with alcohol-related problems throughout his teens and twenties. A year or two before the fight, he says, the cops busted him for underage drinking.

"I have a distinct memory of my father picking me up at the Burlington police station after I'd been pulled over for drinking," he recalls. "That was not a fun trip home."

After graduating from Suffolk University Law School, Donovan says he did not mention the assault charge in his application to join the bar. The father, who is also an attorney, advised him that he did not have to report an offense that had been expunged from his record.

Donovan, 38, describes himself these days as a "social drinker" who has learned and learned how to behave responsibly. But he's quick to say he's still "no saint."

"I don't quote **GEORGE BUSH** often but I'll quote him here: When I was young and stupid, I was really young and

stupid," Donovan says. "I am far from a perfect person. I've made mistakes in my life. I'll continue to make mistakes. But I try to do the right thing. I'm not always successful, but I try."

All Politics Is Personnel

Two months after taking office, Burlington Mayor **MIKE WELLSBERGER** finally unveiled a few of his picks Monday for the city's 15 mayoral appointments.

So what's staying and what's going?

Those getting another yearlong term include police chief **MICHAEL SCHWARTZ**, fire chief **JOHN LARSEN**, Department of Public Works director **KEVIN SODERBERG** and Burlington Electric Department general manager **ANDREW SCHWARTZ**.

As he did with Community and Economic Development director **LARRY WUNDERBERG** in April, Wellsberger gave the lesser-to-be Paris and Recreation director **JOHN SODERBERG** — though both will continue serving in their positions until the mayor names their respective replacements.

"It came to the conclusion that it was important to have new leadership, new direction in the Parks and Recreation Department," Wellsberger says, declining to elaborate on why he's saying Sternbach.

Wunderberger is still making down payment on his several top city-hall jobs. He's asked interim chief administrative officer **PAUL SEIBER** to stay on through the end of September, pending the completion of a national search. The mayor says he expects to name a new city attorney and CERO director soon, after which he'll turn his attention to filling other posts.

Meanwhile, Wellsberger has proposed a reorganization of the mayor's office that would increase his personal staff from two to three. Citing the need for "additional capacity," the mayor has asked the city council to create a new position called "Assistant to the Mayor for Open Government, Innovation and Mayoral Initiatives."

Try fitting that on your business card? So committed to transparency is Wellsberger that he's already filled the yet-to-be-created "open-government" job. He temporarily hired former city councilor and state representative **CAROL FORDHAM** last Monday to perform the job's duties until it's formally approved and she can be appointed. Driscoll, a former Wellsberger campaign adviser,

is the stepdaughter of Progfather Sen **ARNE LAMONT** (D-VT), who endorsed Weinberger in the closing days of his mayoral race.

When counselors learned about Driscoll's hearing during a budget work session last Thursday, at least one was rattled about, well, the lack of transparency in the process.

"It seems a little ironic that it would be an open-government position, but that it wouldn't be fully vetted or announced or anything," says Councilor **MAA HUCKY** (D-West). "I'm not opposed to him making the necessary reorganization to be successful, but I just think if he's going to be changing the structure of city government, he should be justifying it publicly."

Windfall City

Last week Fair Game reported that Gov. **PETER HAMILTON** is likely to serve as the next chairman of the Democratic Governors Association — the Belknap brother of union and corporate cash for fellow Democratic governors' campaigns. On Wednesday this week, Hamilton takes off to Chicago for an overnight trip to attend what he's offered calls a CEO Roundtable event hosted by the DGA.

While in the Windy City, the Green Mountain gov will take in a Cubs game with five fellow governors and some special friends after a " rooftop reception over Wrigley Field," according to a conference schedule. He'll also rub elbows at breakfast with members of the DGA's Founders' Circle and Chairman's Board. A 2010 story in the *New York Times* calculated the cost of membership in these exclusive clubs at \$150,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

The DGA declined to provide a list of those attending the conference, but a spokesperson said the organization expects to raise \$1 million during the Chicago event. Shanley aide **ALEX HAMILTON** provided the names of those participating in three morning "policy discussions." They include representatives of Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield, Walgreens, WalMart Health Plans, Amerihealth, Covanta Energy, AT&T and a slew of labor unions.

The DGA, MacLean says, will pick up the tab for the trip.

Not So Fast

With his email announcement Tuesday

that he would seek reelection as governor, Shanley put to rest months of not-terribly-believable cynicism about his electoral intentions.

Another longtime Vermont govt is being considerably less coy about his reelection plans — and it isn't who you think.

Last week Fair Game speculated that Shanley might have his eye on Sen. **PAUL LAMONT**'s seat, should the senior senator decide to hang up his hat in 2016 after 42 years on the job. In his response, Leahy spokesman **DAVID CARL** sent an email that said, essentially, not so fast.

Referring to an annual Democratic fundraising dinner held last month, Carl said, "In case you weren't at the Curtis Awards dinner, I'd merely note that [Leahy] and I share that he looks forward to seeing the Leahy Blue again in 2016."

Never too early to dust off the vintage 1974 loan sign.

Media Notes

The Vermont press corps is losing one of its best — and definitely wisest — reporters. VTDigger.org's health care and energy reporter, **ALAN DIGGER**, is leaving his online news site to take a job as northeast stewardship director for American Whitewater — a conservation and recreation nonprofit dedicated to protecting mostly gnarly white-water runs.

Why is *Providence*, a journalism and law school grad, willing to let Big Whitewater?

"Digger's been awesome," he says. "It's just a really sweet opportunity because I'm really focused on white-water kayaking."

Yeah, buddy.

Both Digger and the Vermont Press Bureau — which recently lost reporter **JENNIFER** to the *Times of Tribune* — are looking for new Statehouse reporters. To ease you're into that kind of thing... ☺

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Burlington's Mayor Steps Out With a Budget-Balancing Act

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Ten weeks after becoming mayor of Burlington, Miss Washington acknowledges he's still in the "beginning phase." That start-up status is also reflected in the decor of his corner suite on the second floor of city hall. Apart from hangings congratulatory from both the Jerry's and an art print presented recently by a group of visiting Turks, Weinberger—who has never previously held elected office—has yet to personalize his own office.

The reception area includes a portrait gallery of Burlington's 38 mayors. There's an empty space where Weinberger's picture will eventually be placed.

Talk about pressure. The Queen City's first Democratic king in 31 years has also made a couple of score mistakes. On the same day that he was announcing a city-budget breakthrough, Weinberger was forced to withdraw the nomination of his RFP, Ian Carlsson, as city attorney over allegations of improper and salary theft. At the same media pelican focused on the Carlsson fiasco, it came obvious that the fledgling incumbent needed tutoring in PR 101.

But Weinberger will get a second chance in the coming weeks to set a budget, he and interim Chief Administrative Officer Paul Simon promise will event both a tax increase and cuts in city services—as an impressive achievement under the circumstances. Previous mayor Bob Ratt sought on three occasions to raise taxes to address an estimated \$750,000 deficit, without success. By a narrow margin, Ratt took over in early April the projected gap had widened to \$1.2 million, owing to a legal ruling that redirected to an income account the equivalent of \$425,000 in annual interest payments from that age on Telecom that would have gone to the city.

In a joint statement last Friday, Weinberger and Simon vowed off a



Mayor Weinberger and Paul Simon

repeated suggestion that they're working some kind of financial magic. "We now have more information than Bob had," Ratt succumbed said. Weinberger also noted he's got more budgetary flexibility. Vote approval in March of a charter change enables the city to borrow an additional \$1 million for capital improvements.

The success of the Weinberger-Simon balancing act is also due in part to strong good luck. A lower-than-anticipated snowfall rate, for example, is saving \$300,000 in cost-of-living increases for city employees. A low fuel economy is meanwhile expected to generate an added \$100,000 in gross-receipts taxes, according to a "trend analysis" cited by the mayor.

Clever accounting also helped in designing the good news budget package that must be acted on by the city council prior to July 1—the start of fiscal year 2013.

Weinberger and Simon figured out the city can save \$200,000 by using bond proceeds to pay off the lease on the Burlington Police Department headquarters on North Avenue. Another \$300,000 in additional revenues and savings has been identified in the Department of Public Works. Progressive Ward 2 Councilor Max Tracy describes Simon, 47-year-old CPW, as "a very talented financial person." Tracy is one of a few councilors not on the city's Board of Finance who has taken part in nearly all budget-planning sessions during the past two months. City Council President Jean Shannon, a Ward 6 Democrat, says she has sought to engage all 10 councilors—not just the four on the Board of Finance—as this year's budget-making process. While the deliberations have generally proved collegial, a couple of councilors have not hesitated to challenge specific items as

Weinberger's proposed budget, Shannon notes. "It's listened and to some costs made adjustments," she says.

Fortuitously, the mayor's Democratic ally, who occupies one of the council's four Board of Finance seats, has granted praise for Simon and Weinberger "113 impressive when they have done," Shannon says.

Ward 1 independent, offers a more skeptical view. The city-council diaries express reservations about the potential impact on low-income Burlingtonians of a proposed \$5 increase in fees for a parks and recreation after school program. Butler contends that the proposal risks a "modest" but adds, "the increase is an increase." Referring to some of the Burlington leaders taking part in the program, she observes, "These people didn't benefit when stocks were going up, and they're certainly not benefiting now, particularly if they're just a job."

Blurring taken part in budget reviews for 25 years under four previous mayors, Butler adds that they "very likely of anticipated revenue increases" because they "have been before."

Overall, Butler says, it's too early to draw conclusions about Weinberger's fiscal or political performance. "In the first year after getting elected," she remarks in regard to Burlington voters, "you're really dependent on the previous process."

The two other councilors on the finance board—Ward 7 Republican Paul Deslaur and Ward 5 independent Karro Paul—have been less forthcoming with appraisals of the mayor's budget proposals. Deslaur says his volunteer job as a golf "ambassador" has caused him to miss some meetings, leaving him "inconclusive" about giving an opinion. Paul, a professional financial adviser, did not respond to several telephone and email messages over the course of a week.

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Weinberger himself says he "hooked seriously" the fact that we're still coming out of a recession and that we need to build a tax incentive. His worry, however, "We won't be able to do that forever." And the possibility he's had to formulate is relatively quickly "do not go to the heart of the financial issues that Burlington is facing."

The fiscal 2013 budget also contains so many built-in elements that "it won't really reflect my ability as a mayor to make progress," the mayor further cautions. But a day after the interview at his office, Weinberger moved to amend that position, saying in a phone call that his plans for improvements in various recreational facilities will in fact take the city in a new direction. His Monday decision to



budget, Weinberger has to make several key appointments by then and, in keeping with a self-imposed deadline, to decide whether to pursue in pushing a five-year-old plan to build an ice-climbing facility in the abandoned Marina Place.

Progressive Ward 4 Councilor Vince Brennan is firing a warning shot at Morris, saying it would be a "mistake" for Weinberger to hold on the ice options. "If he doesn't go forward with it, then, oh, my God, that empty building will be his legacy," Brennan declares.

During last week's interview, the mayor of Burlington said he had no intention on the issue that will likely prove the most crucial in his current term as office. Asked for his thoughts on the Burlington Whisker beat up, Weinberger

A LOWER-THAN-ANTICIPATED INFLATION RATE IS SAVING \$350,000 IN COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES.

replace Parks & Recreation Director Matt Strohbach asked the deal.

Weinberger says he will ask the city council to approve about \$1 million in spending from the Pay for Parks reserve fund. He says he wants to use the allocations to complete some 26 projects within the next two fiscal years, including a \$100,000 renovation of the "beloved but aging" Greenway Mountain House. He says that the Pay for Parks fund was established three years ago and has usually accumulated about \$500,000 in tax revenues. Weinberger laments that "very little has been done" with the money — until now.

The mayor calls anticipated his commitment to complete 30.7 million in bike path projects by the end of the current fiscal year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency accounts for 75 percent of that sum in the form of flood-relief funds, while the state provides 10 percent and the city 15 percent of the total. "There had been a lack of focus and direction on the bike path," Weinberger says, observing that earlier plans would not have authorized repairs to start until next year.

If it hasn't ended already, the new mayor's political honeymoon won't last past June 30. In addition to deciding the

say, "So far it's mostly been a matter of me getting up to speed on the complicated city."

Can city taxpayers expect a resolution within, say the next six months? "There's not a lot of options I can report," Weinberger responds, but adds, "I will be coming to the public on the 100 issue well before the end of the year." The mayor also accuses his words carefully when asked about racial tensions in Burlington, which is years particularly focused on the schools. "I do sense that, and I am concerned about it," he says, "I've been careful about what I've said because of my consciousness of being a newcomer to this situation." He adds, however, that "no city government is immune, there is a need to set goals to become more diverse as the city becomes more diverse."

In a meeting last week with neighborhood activists and minority representatives, Weinberger was reported to have outspokenly. Brennan, who attended the session, accused the mayor's role as "very positive." Weinberger responded affirmatively to argue that he continues "race-forwardness to leadership" on race relations, Brennan reports. "We need that, having a child of Asian descent, he is very loyal to to the issue." ☐

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Some Vermonters Are Trying to Stop Health Care Reform — One Metaphor at a Time

BY KATHYNE PEASE

Exactly this month, a few dozen Vermonters gathered at the University of Vermont for a seminar billed as "Healthcare 101" but first, they had to wait for a half hour in the University Ball Hallways of the George D. Allen Center for a security guard to open the reserved classroom.

"This is what's going to happen," quipped one audience member, trying the door handle. "You'll show up, try the handle and the door will be locked."

The joke was the first of several indications that most — if not all — of the audience members at last week's seminar agreed on the "issue plan." Tea Party-esque groups Vermonters for Economic Health and the Green Mountain Patriots convened the event, which featured presentations from opinionated doctors, lobbyists and industry experts. Front and center among the attendees was Republican gubernatorial candidate Randy Brock, joining notes as a small pad.

"We want to have a balanced debate," said Jeff Wenzberg, who directs Vermonters for Health Care Freedom. The group is slowly gaining attention as the state's sole organization devoted to blocking current health care reform policies. Though it's late to the debate, VHCFF is riling up single-payer supporters and asking tough questions.

Wenzberg became the organization's executive director in March and has been hitting the drums ever since — in editorials and television appearances, and at events such as the UVM seminar. The former Rutland mayor complains that lawmakers "wasted" through a single-payer agenda without opening the floor to a conversation about alternatives. "We've got to slow down the train," he says.

Although he conceded he is as presiding in the show, Wenzberg talked up the moment. " anytime you top 50 [people], it's a riot," he said.

Not for Wenzberg and VHCFF, it's going to be tough to hear "much territory these days. Health care reform is a well under way in Vermont, and the train has started to slow down, but slowly it's taking station. Things got rolling in 2003 with the passage of Act 48, which promises to provide "cost-effective, affordable, high-quality, publicly financed health care" for all Vermont residents. That



Jeff Wenzberg

so-called single-payer system, known as Green Mountain Care, is slated to kick into gear in 2017.

In April, the legislature passed H.888, establishing the health care "exchange" mandated by the federal Affordable Care Act — aka Obamacare. Wenzberg's group isn't happy about either bill but makes a distinction between them. Act 48 essentially laid out goals and plans, H.888 moves into implementation. With the latter, Wenzberg notes, "a very critical line has been crossed."

Till, then and slightly bolder, 59-year-old Wenzberg brings plenty of public-policy experience to his leadership role at VHCFF. He served six terms as Rutland's mayor, from 1987 to 1999. Four years later, he took over as commissioner for Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation. Prior to landing at VHCFF, he worked as a

self-employed consultant with the Center for Climate Strategies, where his specialty was working with state governments to design climate action plans.

Wenzberg is no stranger to contentious issues. In his work around climate policies, he specialized in holding facilitated meetings to moderate differences of opinion among dozens of state stakeholders.

"Everybody comes with their knives sharpened and their guns loaded," he says. "They're ready to duke it out. Over the course of the year, where there is the potential for agreement."

Health care isn't so different from climate policy, Wenzberg says. Both issues are emotionally charged and deeply complex, and ideology often plays a role. As with global warming, he says, finding consensus on health care

requires a process — and he claims the state slipped that step.

"Because of that, we're relegated to armists," Wenzberg says.

Wenzberg isn't over VHCFF from the organization's founder, Dennis Johnston — a lobbyist in Vermont GOP circles who now serves as the senior adviser and fundraising consultant for Brock. Wenzberg says he pursued the job because of his deep reservations about the direction of health care reform in Vermont. But there was a practical reason, too. Confusion about federal climate policy, as well as tightening state budgets, meant his work as a climate policy consultant was drying up.

The work at VHCFF is similar to that of a political campaign. Under Johnston's leadership, the group rolled out a few major media ad buys, including a commercial that aired frequently during this year's legislative session. Although there are no commercials airing at the moment, Wenzberg says that is likely to change as the fall election approaches. For now, he and the organizational resources are focused on education and "persuasion."

That means dispelling what Wenzberg says are a few myths about health care reform in Vermont: first, that it's a "social scam," and second, that "it will never happen."

"Initially they were very hard on the 'not, not,'" says Wendy Wilson, Rutland city treasurer and now a candidate for state senate. Wilson isn't officially affiliated with VHCFF, but the group's website promotes her financial analysis of the cost of Green Mountain Care. Her projection, though widely disputed by members of the state's Green Mountain Care Board and the Department of Financial Institutions, predicts it would result in a deficit in excess of \$2 billion by 2011.

Wilson notes some changes at VHCFF that she attributes to Wenzberg.

"Especially more recently, they're trying to ask a lot of really good questions," she says. "They're knowledgeable about health care reform of some shade or another, they've got it, but what they're trying to do is say, 'Let's make sure it's a reform that will be successful.' In order to do that, we can't have a preconceived

POLITICS



F-35 Supporters Running Ads Downplaying Noise Concerns

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY



More than 125 Vermonters — some of them well-known business leaders — have signed on to a newspaper advertisement in support of having the Air Force's F-35 jet fighters at the New and Ground stations at Burlington International Airport.

The ad downplays opponents' concerns about the noise the planes would generate and emphasizes what the signers say would be the economic benefits of deploying up to two dozen F-35s in the Burlington area.

Decided likely to be experienced by many nearby residents would not be safe thresholds for a total of only six minutes per day, states the full page ad that ran in Sunday's *Burlington Free Press* and is scheduled to appear this week in South Burlington's *Other Paper*.

Among the ad's signers: three members of the Passafium family, Lake Champlain Chocolates founder and president Don Longmire, Burlington real estate co-owner Doug Noble, schooler William Tracy, Republican former U.S. Senate candidate Richard Daines, Weinreich Group CEO Richard Auch, Scott Boardman, president of the Hudson & Boardman investment firm, and realtor Scott Prosserini.

F-35 opponent Jonang Lee, a South Burlington attorney, describes the list as reflective of "Vermont's 1 percent."

Familiar Faces to Run for Old North End Sent

BY PAUL HENRY

Following Rep. Jason Larber's (D-Burlington) surprise announcement last week that he will not seek reelection to his Old North End seat in the Vermont House, a couple of familiar faces put their names forward for the job.

Former 14-year Rutland state representative Carl McCormack, a Democrat who moved to Burlington in 2001, and he would run as the two members *Exempt*. The district's other incumbent, Rep. Jodi Knowlton (D-Burlington) — who was appointed to her seat by Gov. Peter Shumway after Rachel Weston resigned to take a job outside the country — will also run.

On Tuesday, the Progressive Party put forward its own candidate: former Burlington City councilor Gabe Bergson, who currently works in city hall as senior assistant city manager. Party executive director Margie Dwyer said he expects at least one more Progressive to get into the race.

As for Larber, the four-term House member did not return calls for comment but said in an earlier announcement that he was leaving the legislature to "pursue other questions." Larber couple the Vermont connection for anyone last full bar case in list of four candidates.

Leader of Progressive Jewish Lobby to Speak on Mideast Conflict

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Strong responses — printed ones — can be expected when the leader of a progressive and increasingly influential Jewish American lobbying group speaks on Wednesday at Burlington's Glazer Zedek Synagogue.

The 7:30 p.m. talk will also serve as something of a housewarming reception for Jeremy Ben-Ari, founder and president of J Street, a progressive Jewish American lobbying group. He lived in Burlington for much of Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign, for which he served as national policy director.

While J Street's call for a two-state solution and removal of some Jewish settlements may generate controversy at Glazer Zedek, its position appears to be gaining ground among mainstream U.S. politicians.

Interviewed by phone, Ben-Ari says J Street is succeeding by filling a "political vacuum" Most American Jews are eager for a settlement that will finally secure durable peace and security in the Middle East, he suggests.

In J Street's view, that would involve a Jewish state and a Palestinian state separated along borders more or less congruent with those in place prior to the 1967 war that resulted in Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. As for Jewish settlements far from the 1967 lines, "They will have to go," he declares. ☐

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Trying to Stop Health Care Reform

action about what that reform is going to be. The dialogue needs to be broader."

But at HealthCare 100, speakers rejected single-payer out of hand. St. Michael's College professor and state Senate candidate Robert Lantieri argued against government-run health care. A former Canadian citizen, he warned that when medicine becomes just "another line item" in a big budget, rationing is a real possibility. "Let's hand this whole thing over to that paragon of streamlined decision making and efficiency the government," he suggested sarcastically to the delighted chuckles of several audience members.

Burlington psychiatrist Robert Ettemann and Rutland dermatologist Dan McCauley, both private practitioners, raised the classic physician concerns that a government-run health care system would prevent doctors from making the best choices for their patients that the medically needy might "leech" onto. In Vermont, and that doctors could be forced to leave the state.

Single-payer advocates and their opponents do

He notes that his 20-hour-a-week job is the organization's only paid position.

For Weinberg, it's something of a role reversal. When he was commissioner of the DHEC, organizations like VHCFC were a thorn in his side. He now concedes, "We wouldn't get to the right result without someone in that role telling that position there's a great deal of respect for how this is supposed to work."

That is, challenging conventional wisdom. Breck, who is running against incumbent Gov. Peter Shumlin, points out that even though the House passed \$5.5B with an 88-28 margin, polling suggests that Vermonters as a whole are far less supportive. A May poll from Vermont Business Magazine, WCAX and radio station WBTV shows that just fewer than half of those polled — 42% percent — favor a single-payer system, 55.7 percent said they are opposed.

"It becomes very difficult for many citizens to envision where we are on health care reform because the details aren't there yet," says Breck. "I think it's important that a wide perspective of views be presented to the subject."

But why didn't that happen sooner? Weinberg's theory is that single-payer opponents got complacent during



WE'VE GOT TO SLOW DOWN THE TRAIN.

JEFF WEINBERG

seem to have reached an impasse. The former accuses the latter of using fear to undermine health care reform. "My belief is that this organization is probably, at best, misguided," says Mary Gerlach, a retired human rights lawyer living in Bennington who volunteers for the Vermont Workers' Center.

The latter accuses the former of convincing the public "that single-payer is the only alternative to the current system," Weinberg says. "A lot of people buy it, but it's just not true."

As a 500(c)(3), VHCFC doesn't have to disclose its funding sources, and there have been plenty of allegations that out-of-state insurance companies — sworn enemies of single-payer — are contributing handsomely.

Weinberg says confidentiality is important for the group's donors — 60 percent of them are Vermonters, he claims. Some are health care providers, he explains, others work for companies that would brown on advocacy of this sort.

the Douglas administration, they knew reform wouldn't happen under his leadership, and didn't mobilize quickly enough after the 2008 election. It was Johnson, he says, who recognized the convergence of philosophy and agendas, and saw the need for an opposition group to challenge Shumlin's proposals.

"Unfortunately, it was a reckoning that came very late," Weinberg says. "Send me back in time, and I'd be advocating like a madman back in 2007 to do this. All we can do now is try to correct the error and try to make up for lost time."

Steve Kimbrell, the commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation, sees it differently. "That debate is over," he says. "We had a gubernatorial election, and my boss ran on this issue. Now we're in the implementation stage."

Weinberg is "just wrong" about a "bright train" barreling down the track, according to Kimbrell. "We are not moving fast enough," he says. "I feel a great sense of urgency to get going." ☐

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

A Decade of Daysies!

2003 was a big year: A white tiger mauls Siegfried and Roy's boy, leaving him perilously paralyzed. 50 Cent topped the charts with "In Da Club." Apple launched the iTunes Store. Kanye the Free Miley once died, got aploxed at \$1.83 a gallon, and Seven Days launched its first-ever best-of awards, the Seven Daysies.

It's hard to believe, but this is our 10th year doling out honors to readers' local faves: the restaurants you return to again and again, the local musicians you'd drop anything to see live, your go-to stores and, of course, the restaurants who have your heart.

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send the paper survey to **PD, Box 1964, Burlington, VT 05402**, by **Friday, June 22**.

Please be as specific as possible — and write legibly!

Who are you?

1. How old are you?

Under 18
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
Over 70

2. Which gender

best describes you?
Female Male Other

3. Your zip code:

ILLUSTRATION: JAMES

Food & Drink

4. Best restaurant, if you're paying
5. Best restaurant, if they're paying
6. Best new restaurant (opened in the last 12 months)
7. Best breakfast/brunch
8. Best to-go lunch
9. Best Asian restaurant (including Indian)
10. Best Mexican/Latin restaurant
11. Best ethnic restaurant (other)
12. Restaurant with best vegetarian fare
13. Best restaurant to take the kids
14. Best place to get late-night food
15. Best pizza (restaurant)
16. Best pizza (delivery)

17. Best Vermont cheese
18. Best burger
19. Best food cart/truck
20. Best snack bar
21. Best Vermont craft beer
22. Best Vermont wine
23. Best Vermont spirit
24. Best bar
25. Best place to get coffee
26. Best bakery
27. Best non-chain place to buy groceries
28. Best farmers-market vendor
29. Best wine seller

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

30. Best large live-music venue
31. Best small local-music hot spot
32. Best place to drink alone
33. Best up-and-coming Vermont musical performer
34. Best underground Vermont band
35. Best Vermont hip-hop artist/group
36. Best local record label
37. Best Vermont standup comedian
38. Best club/DJ
39. Best Vermont cartoonist
40. Best Vermont craftspeople

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS
4 P. 15

- 41. Best local clothing designer
- 42. Best local jewelry designer
- 43. Best art gallery
- 44. Best movie theater
- 45. Best Vermont festival
- 46. Best local theater company
- 47. Best performing arts venue
- 48. Best free Wi-Fi hot spot
- 49. Best Vermont park
- 50. Best public golf course
- 51. Best ski/slide slope
- 52. Best cross-country ski area
- 53. Best in-state weekend getaway
- 54. Best day trip with the kids
- 55. Best Vermont mayor/SSB

Media

- 56. Best Vermont journalist
- 57. Best local TV newscast
- 58. Best local meteorologist
- 59. Best local radio DJ
- 60. Best Vermont media station
- 61. Best Vermont blog
- 62. Best Vermont Twitter feed

Services & Stuff

- 63. Best women's casual clothing
- 64. Best women's evening wear
- 65. Best men's clothing
- 66. Best shoe store
- 67. Best vintage/secondhand clothing
- 68. Best children's clothing
- 69. Best eyeglasses
- 70. Best jewelry store
- 71. Best beauty-product purveyor
- 72. Best pet daycare
- 73. Best pet-supply store
- 74. Best toy store
- 75. Best musical-instrument store
- 76. Best bookstore
- 77. Best housewares store
- 78. Best furniture store
- 79. Best antique/secondhand store
- 80. Best lighting store
- 81. Best camera store
- 82. Best place to buy a computer
- 83. Best local web developer
- 84. Best bridal shop
- 85. Best Vermont wedding venue
- 86. Best florist
- 87. Best outdoor outfitter
- 88. Best bike shop
- 89. Best auto dealer
- 90. Best place for car repairs
- 91. Best real estate agency
- 92. Best garden center
- 93. Best bank/credit union
- 94. Best place to buy a pipe
- 95. Best adult toy store
- 96. Best hair salon
- 97. Best place to get body art
- 98. Best gym/health club
- 99. Best Vermont spa
- 100. Best manicure/pedicure

Bonus Categories

- 101. Best thing to happen in Vermont since past year
- 102. Worst thing to happen in Vermont in the past year
- 103. Most underappreciated Vermont story of the year
- 104. Best hero or local personality
- 105. Higest hipster

The Rules

1. Voters must fill out ONLY ONE ballot. Evidence of ballot duplication (word) think we can't tell if will result in all these ballots being disqualified.
2. Voters must fill out a minimum of 99 answers for their ballot to be counted.
3. Playful: Daysies candidates? Campaigning is OK, but no bribery or rewards for voters, please! In fairness of this, we'll require disqualification, not termination and karma.

Find out the winners in our special Daysies issue on August 9!

Vote online at sevendaysvt.com!

Or mail your Daysies picks to Seven Days, P.O. Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402.





Good Things Come in Threes

Oh, my God, Colleen — I can't believe this is finally happening seriously; it's just so awesome!"

The two girls in the back of my taxi were happy howling on ecstasy. The one who was speaking was positively beside herself with excitement. Since it was the Saturday night before University of Vermont graduation, I assumed either or both of them were graduating the next day.

"Do you you're graduating tomorrow?" I asked one of the cheerleaders, expecting confirmation of my hypothesis.

"Oh, my, we're both in — we're old grads," Colleen explained, chuckling. "Both here is all wrapped up about my wedding. I'm getting married next week."

"Well, that's great. Congratulations. You having the ceremony here in Vermont?"

We pulled up to where Colleen was staying — a condo on South Burlington's Kennedy Drive, flagship of the condos, trying goodie, the two girls squealed and hugged. These were clearly dear old friends, and both of them seemed to be feeling the excitement of Colleen's fast-approaching nuptials. As much as most people seem to move forward in life, to grow and evolve, there are certain things — like old friendships — that we never want to change.

Having had advice to Colleen, both were excited to go back to her place at the top of North Street in Windsor. I stole a glance in the rearview mirror and saw a short, slim young woman who could easily pass for a teenager. Her brown hair was tied back except for one thick ringlet strand tucking the side of her head. Two all the way

unexpectedly when I was pregnant with our second child.

None, of course, I wanted to hear about the circumstances of her husband's death. Like many people, I suppose, I have a morbid curiosity that, calling on my better angels, I successfully quashed this time. For whatever reason, that person had shared with me the central event of her life at this point, and I wanted to respect the confidence she had granted me, a stranger in the night.

"Oh, yes — I'm so sorry," I said. "How do you even get through that? I mean, you seem so full of life and spirit. You must have some amazing friends and family who are there for you."

"Yes, I am blessed with an amazing circle of supportive people. I love my parents so much. I was, like, a horrible teenager, a lot

stay at home mom, or are you working at all?"

"Well, I'm working — part on administrative assistant up at UVU. I do want to get back to college, though. I'm seeing that program. He has a 2- and a 4-year-old. It's a child. I know but we're like 'The Brady Bunch.' Seriously my fingers are like, really crossed, because I think things could really work out with him."

I said, "Hey — never say 'just an administrative assistant.' Every job is honorable and besides, you get to attach to your place and I wish a young age."

"Thanks, I know," she said. "I do want to pursue my education, though whenever the time is right."

I dropped both at her home in Windsor, feeling tremendous admiration for the woman who had sustained one of the worst

WHILE SHE SEEMED GENUINELY HAPPY FOR HER OLD FRIEND,

THE WEDDING WAS CLEARLY STIRRING UP SOME BITTERSWEET FEELINGS.

"I couldn't have it anyplace else. It just wouldn't mean. I'm a 20th generation Vermonter. We're holding the wedding on my grandfather's farm, outside of Woodstock."

"Marrying a Vermont boy?"

"Hope, but we don't hold it against him. He's from just across the river in New Hampshire."

"Aww," I said. "New Hampshire, ya damn state."

"Oh, yeah," Colleen said, laughing. "My fiancé's kind of like that. A lot."

"Are you still living in Vermont?"

"Unfortunately no. We live in Brooklyn. I'm an EMT, and John is an architect. I'm sure I'll make it back to Vermont one day, maybe when we have kids."

down to her chin. She was actually quite lovely — as an understated way — and her slight smile appeared to contain a raft of conflicting emotions. While she seemed genuinely happy for her old friend, the wedding was clearly stirring up some bittersweet feelings.

As we motored along Denart Street, I asked just ending conversation, "So both — is Colleen the first of your girls to get married?"

Here's the thing. You can never anticipate the course of a conversation. Even a seemingly innocuous question can end with shattering realities.

" Nope," she replied quietly. "I was actually married five years ago. I have two girls — 2 and 4. My husband died

in 1998. Now, I tell them every day how much I miss him. The other thing is, I'm a triplet, and I'm super-close to my two sisters."

"Not smallest! I don't know if I've ever even met a triplet before — at least, not that I know of. Are you like identical?"

"Yes, we are look alike, if that's what you mean. I'm kidding — I know that's what you meant. When we were tiny, before we could even talk, we like, mimicked our own language. And you might think that's crazy, but we can still communicate telepathically."

I don't think that's crazy at all. I think it's completely wonderful. It's a tough world, and we all need all the connection we can get. So good for you. Are you a

blissfully capable for a young wife with one baby and another on the way, and conceived a better, deeper and fuller human being. I had heard it in her voice and seen it in her eyes.

On some elemental level, both had made a profound choice, and had undertaken the greatest difficulty of human existence: the transformation of deep tragedy into something meaningful, even beautiful. Her sheer courage moved me to my core. ☺

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In a Vermont Book of Poetry, American and Japanese Cultures Meld

BY AMY LILLY

A bridge of shikis / built between trees / across budding? So reads a modern Japanese haiku about spring. In Vermont, written by Manipulator poet **ANDREW MILLER-BROWN** and translated in collaboration with Burlington poet **AKIHO OHSKI**. The poem appears in the season's new collection, *Deepening Snow*, a book printed in both Japanese and English that does its own kind of bridging between two vastly different languages and cultures.

"American culture is really the opposite of Japanese culture," observes Ohski, a Tokyo native who moved to the U.S. with her American husband 10 years ago. "They couldn't be more different." While her adopted culture values direct-

ness, which allows for enough characters to fit either a haiku or a tanka, Ohski says she composed these poems as mantras to her parents back in Japan while caring for her two children (now 17 and 16) during their first few years, "when you have hardly any time to yourself."

But even with the extra-judging culture—which uses a 5-7-5-7 format as compared to haiku's 5-7-5—poets remain between what a Japanese reader and an American one will grasp from a line of Japanese poetry. Seasonal references that constitute the backbone of these serene forms of poetry instantly evoke specific emotions for Japanese readers because of their long history of use. (Haiku dates back

of her haikus. After that, says Chalmers—now the executive director of **VSA VERMONT**, a nonprofit devoted to making arts accessible to those with disabilities—the two recognized their "common loss of poetry and language." They began meeting "with no goal in mind other than to enjoy the process of exploring the nuances of language and culture," Chalmers adds.

Eventually, the women's conversations led to the publication of their first collaborative effort, *Red Fish Alphabet*, in 2008. Unbeknownst to them, the book caught the attention of **ANDREW MILLER-BROWN**, a 2004 creative-writing graduate of Johnson State College who makes free-

hand-bound paper Miller-Brown acrylic washed the cover with an abstract image of a black snowdrift, and bound the whole in a seamless, embossed folder.

Fortunately for those who don't collect, or can't afford, impressive books, Miller-Brown is also seeking for less expensive trade editors on demand using the Japanese book machine at **AKIHO AND CAROLINE WORKSHOP** in St. Johnsbury. The square paperback's front cover bears a photo of snow-laden blue branches taken by Miller-Brown's mother. The title and author information is relegated to a corner of the back cover, and to emphasize the Japanese disinclination to draw attention to oneself.

Despite her 18 years in the U.S. and her authorship of the poems, Ohski be-

BOOKS



(Left) Deepening Snow by Andrew Miller-Brown and Akiho Ohski

ness and self-assertion, her native one exerts an indirectness, suggestion, empathy—qualities that define the two forms of poetry Ohski explores in *Deepening Snow*. haiku and the much older form of tanka.

Ohski is used to explaining the differences the western Japanese language and culture is an adjunct at Champlain College in Burlington, and introduces schoolchildren around Vermont to Japanese cultural traditions at the University of Vermont Asian Studies Outreach Program's field services coordinator.

As it happens, many of Ohski's poems originated in a limited space that knows no cultural gaps: the subject line of an

to the 17th century, looks to the present.) For Americans, not so much. And certain images of nature in Japanese culture make Americans think of the wrong issue. Taking pine needles, for instance, mean summer to a Japanese native but evoke autumn in Americans' minds, says Ohski.

That's where her collaboration with Chalmers, who is also a poet, came into play. The two have met once a month to hash out contradictions of Ohski's poetry since 1999, when Ohski participated in a writing project Chalmers led to publish Vermont contemporary artists. The project culminated in the performance of a dance/narrative entitled "Clearing Classrooms," during which Ohski read one

press books, both at **AKIHO PRESS**—artist **CLARE VAN FLEET**'s press in Newark, Vt.—and at his own **FLUORENCE PRESS** in East Burke.

"I sent them a letter," Miller-Brown recalls, asking if he could use their next collection. The letterpress printer, who grew up on a dairy farm in Caledonia County, says he likes "to work with writing that's not been published before." The pair were "he surprised and happy," says Ohski, and that opened up about 100 poems, of which Miller-Brown chose 51. The result: 100 signed and numbered, square-format, bound-edition letterpress copies of *Deepening Snow*, at \$150 each. Flawlessly edited and executed, the collector's item uses handmade and

traps a similar sentiment when the expression discomfort at being interviewed before, and apart from, Chalmers. For her part, Chalmers acknowledges Ohski's lasting influence on her own work. "The translation process with Mahiko has greatly affected my poems. They're far more intimate than they used to be," she says. "My poetry has been far more focused on joy" (D).

F Deepening Snow haiku and tanka by Andrew Miller-Brown and Akiho Ohski. Manipulator Press, 2013. paperback, \$150. Inquiries: Order either edition by emailing amillerbrown@deepeningsnow.com or phoebe@manipulatorpress.com.

APP review

Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks

BY MICHAEL GARRIS

Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks is a free app available for the iPad, iPhone and iPod, is a boon for outdoor lovers in Vermont who use digital devices. Based on the popular Oh, Ranger! Fieldfinder app, developed by New York-based APN Media, the VT State Parks edition aims to provide users with everything they need (or want) to know about state parks in Vermont.

Oh, Ranger! helps users find their ideal environment with a diverse set of filtering options, such as distance from the user (based on ZIP code or city name) and a broad selection of potential activities. When I scrolled through the 52 state parks on the list, I was surprised to find myself scrolling up the park's diverse website, though you could just as easily obsess over water sports or biking trails.

That said, Oh, Ranger! probably isn't an app you'll spend hours with; rather, it offers an efficient way to find out what you need to know. Search results are listed based on distance from the location entered and the load times for results are impressively fast. The app is quick and responsive in general, and I encountered no technical difficulties. And that's a good thing when you're in a hurry to start having fun.

One caveat: Like any app, Oh, Ranger! requires either a Wi-Fi or 3G/4G data connection. This wasn't an issue while I played around with it at home, but considering the app is all about exploring the great outdoors, it could prove inaccessible in many Vermont locales. Maybe it's better to figure out what you need to know before you go.

Still, Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks performs exactly as advertised. It provides quick access to a wealth of specific information. And you can't argue with the price!

OH, RANGER! VT STATE PARKS

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STATE *of* THE arts



Quick Lit

Most adults are so familiar with the Helen Keller story that we forget how difficult it is to tell. How can readers who rely on their senses of sight and hearing imagine being bereft of both from the age of 19 months, and without even realizing it, until the age of 22?

JOSEPH LAMBERT of White River Junction finds an elegant solution to this problem in his graphic biography *Annie Sullivan and the Trude* of Helen Keller, published under the auspices of his alma mater, the *COVERS* cartoon.

spaces. The book's first three pages offer a visual representation of young Helena baffling world-pitch-black panels interrupted by ghostlike blue figures. Disembodied arms force a tool into the central figures' hands. There are no words, only body parts interacting limned with energy as if by an infrared viewer. Only on the fourth page does Lambert plunge us back into the realm of colors, details, words.

As the title indicates, Lambert's book is intended to introduce young readers to both Keller's story and that of her biographer and lifelong mentor, Anne Sullivan. The author-artist intertwines these tales with surprising narrative

complexity. As Sullivan struggles to break through to Helen — a process chronicled in excerpts from her real-life letters — we see flashbacks to her own childhood, which was turbulent and Dickensian (A poorhouse rats and a dead brother figure prominently).

Sullivan emerges from the pages as a complex heroine: brave but also dangerously stubborn (and at times in her eagerness to yank Helen out of darkness, downright ruthless). We learn how as Keller became famous, Sullivan and other parties struggled to take credit: a process that culminated in Keller's "trial" for plagiarism.

This is the kind of embarrassing episode that kids like to tell of famous people often omit. Yet Lambert clearly isn't aiming to knock Koller and Sullivan off their pedestals — just to humanize them. He immerses us in Helen's world where human touch is all to show us that the flawed woman who brought her pupil the gift of language also — just as importantly — brought her the worthless gift of friendship.

作者 杨永清 单位 中国工商银行

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller by Joseph Lambert, Disney-Hyperion Books, 96 pages, \$17.95

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Enslaying and killing of Andean Children Remains
at Hilaris (Dillinga drainage)
© 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007





SOPHIE GOLDSTEIN

is an award-winning cartoonist. She's based in Los Angeles, New York, Prague and Toronto, South Korea. She currently resides in North River Junction and attends the Center for Cartoon Studies. See more of her work on her blog at www.sophiegoldstein.com or follow her on twitter at [@sophiegoldstein](http://sophiegoldstein)



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STATEofTHEarts

Short Takes on Film



THE LAKE PLACID FILM FESTIVAL staff has designed a provocative poster for its annual mini-festival, which starts Wednesday, June 13. The event's name appears on a wrinkled red surface in a font all too reminiscent of a Netflix envelope.

That fits right into a panel discussion scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at Lake Placid's historic PALACE THEATRE. "Do Movies Have a Future?" The question is not just theoretical for film exhibitors who screen traditional 35-millimeter prints as several studios have announced that they intend to stop shipping reels and go all digital in the year 2010. Will small and indie theaters be forced to convert or die?

One discussion participant is director actor Michael Gassman, a veteran of TV shows such as "The Mentalist," "Demigri," and "Unforgettable." (He is also played Gm. Tommy Frank in Oliver Stone's 1991 Gassman is at the LPFF to promote Tending Fire, a documentary he produced about seven teenage boys undergoing a wilderness designed rite of passage in New York's Catskill Mountains. Director Peter Pedard will also attend the Saturday screening at 7 p.m.

The LPFF is somewhat scaled down this year, with just nine events scheduled. The films screened include festival hits such as Choke, Won't You Be My Neighbor? (a live-action drama based on the graphic novel by Iranian comic artist Marjane Satrapi) (Persopolis) and Searching for Sugar Man, a documentary about Rodriguez, the obscure Detroit musician who became the voice of South Africa's apartheid youth. Joe Papp in Five Acts (screening free on Friday) tells the story of a groundbreaking theater producer whose LPFF Artistic Director KENNETH LAMARCA describes as "a youth like a Shakespearean character, a self-obsessed, occasionally cruel man who ultimately had to face a terrible personal tragedy."

And, of course, fans of short film won't want to miss the local North Country Short Showcase or the latest installment of the annual Sleepless in Lake Placid student film competition. Better than Netflix? You be the judge.

Speaking of struggling indie movie houses, in late May the owner of Montpelier's SAVOY THEATRE announced to members that "our financial position has led us to the point where we may need to close the theater starting June 15th." Community response was swift. On June 11, owner ROBERTA VANCE wrote in the Savoy's e-newsletter that "to date the community has sent in donations and renewed memberships totaling \$23,891."

Meanwhile, reader ROBERT LAMARCA sent Savoy fans a photo (pictured) that he snapped outside the Savoy on June 11, showing moviegoers lined up in the rain for a show. Those rains are still falling.

Kickstarter campaigns for indie films are a dime a dozen these days, but not many of them were initiated by 12-year-old directors inspired by Quentin Tarantino. GABRIELLE of Burlington wants to raise \$1500 by June 27 to make a film called Reserver Pups—a "sensory spoof" of Tarantino's head-bust Reservoir Dogs, with kids in the lead roles. Hoh—the son of August First and Stacia Sandwich co-owner JACQUELINE—has been experimenting with Adobe After Effects in his YouTube videos, which reveal that for a problem he's got some solving skills. Check out his project at kickstarter.com.

And while you're there, get a preview of "The Green Knight," a family-oriented locally shot adventure from VERMONT FILMWORKS, which brought us the inventive short "The Dragon Ball." Lamoille County filmmaker MALE FREEMAN and MARGOT OF CTV have already exceeded their fundraising goal.

BY MARGOT HARRISON

LAKE PLACID FILM FORUM

Wednesday, June 13 through Saturday, June 16 at the Palace Theatre and Lake Placid Center for the Arts in Lake Placid, NY. Most films are \$10-12; some events are free. For the complete schedule, see lplff.com or 952-1-schedule.

Dear Cecil,
I've heard you can avoid paying a tax bill, traffic ticket or other debt by writing "accepted for value" on it. I understand that's nonsense of course. But for fun: How is this supposed to work? I've always found the theory of tax protesters entertaining—for example the idea that U.S. Income tax is invalid because there was never legally granted statehood. "Accepted for value" seems to be propelled by some similar notion, but I'm stumped if I can figure out what it is. The websites I've checked offer a convoluted explanation involving the gold standard and the Uniform Commercial Code, where nothing is what it seems—it's like reading Herodotus or Leo Strauss. I know it's off-the-wall, but better, but surely there's some superficially logical thread.

—Tyler S., Newport Coast, Calif.

You're right, there's a logic at work here. Granted, it's logic that only a psychotic can fully appreciate. However, we live in a country where the Supreme Court has interpreted the 14th Amendment, which was intended to protect the rights of former slaves, to mean that corporations are the legal equivalent of humans. Acceptance for



value, AAV for short, involves renouncing only tangibly moveable assets. So we ignore these people at our peril. They may someday rule.

AAV is a core gamble among so-called sovereign citizens, who, depending on whom you listen to, are either bonafide anarchists or upholders of America's bedrock values. They're philosophical descendants of the anti-federalists, the losing side in the 18th-century debate over the U.S. Constitution. Simply put, they deny the power of the centralized state.

The sovereign citizen draws a distinction between a human being and a U.S. citizen, also

known as a person. A U.S. citizen, in AAV thinking, is a legal fiction, or "strawman." It's to this strawman that all laws apply. As a sovereign citizen, it's your choice whether the law also applies to you, a creature of flesh and blood.

You're thinking: These people are crazy. No question there. From their perspective, though, they're merely embracing the founding principle of the republic as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence—namely, that the government derives its "just powers from the Consent of the Governed" and implicitly cede risk you if you renounced to be governed? Meanwhile, sovereign citizens believe that, until such time that you do, you're a free man, or free woman, as the case may be.

Don't get me wrong—I understand the concept of representative democracy. Even among the Tea Party crowd I doubt you're going to find many who think you could run a country as he people could simply choose not to participate in the body politic and thereby exempt themselves from the law. The fact remains that, even in the land of the free and the home of the brave, the consent of the governed is a plain fiction. As a potential source you play ball or else.

Looked at in that way, sovereign citizenship has a certain crapsack quality to it, provided you ignore the racial and antisemitic aspects. Once you delve into the details, though, you see the whole thing is just crapsack, period. Here's a rundown:

- Sovereign citizens contend that in protesting you with state bill or traffic tickets, the government is simply making you an offer. By responding with "accepted for value," you're making a counteroffer. If the government doesn't make a counter-counteroffer, you're off the hook. This is based on a bizarre reading of the Uniform Commercial Code, which sovereign citizens far more reason regard as holy writ.
- The counteroffer you're supposedly making is that whatever debt you owe should be charged against the secret account maintained on your behalf by the U.S. Treasury. The premise is that it's going to

be the gold standard in 1880, the U.S. switched from real money to fictional money. As collateral for its worthless cash, the fed pledged the future value of U.S. citizens as foreign assets. This value is maintained in the secret account created when you, or rather the fictional person established in your name, receives a social security number at birth. In essence, by writing "accepted for value," you're a debt master, you're telling the government to pay it on your tab.

- One last key idea. Sovereign citizens believe the legal basis of fictional U.S. citizenship is the 14th Amendment, which created "14th Amendment citizens" under the federal thumb. The fed uses tricks such as ap courts to trap the unwary into signing up for 14th Amendment citizenship and its attendant obligations. To avoid this, sovereign citizens write "TDC" next to an ap card, indicating they're taking pains only under "threat, duress or coercion."

I won't even get into SO theories about identity law versus common law, the ostensible use of capital-intensive documents, etc. Barring our eyes, we're left. Now, even if you're a sovereign citizen who dreamed up the idea that the 14th Amendment created fictional persons. It was that heebie of extremity, the Supreme Court.

For these websites you want to go to right? Click Adams on either the 14th Amendment or the page. We do Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader 300 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610, or cecil@chicagoreader.com

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Washington County Family Court is an ugly place. Aesthetically, its institutional courtroom has seen better days; in places, the trim around the doors is duct-taped to the wall. The emotional atmosphere isn't much better. This is an environment where nuclear families frequently come to explode, creating fallout that can be poisonous for years.

Divorces and child-custody fights are difficult enough when two parties are trying to resolve their differences. But in an age of alternative family building that can involve three, four or more parties — including stepmothers, stepfathers,

gay divorced, Peter helped the two women conceive a daughter. In 2003, after their split, a judge divided custody almost equally between the two women and granted Peter visitation rights.

Now Peter is alleging that Mary has made it difficult for him to exercise those rights, and he further claims that she hasn't been responsive to his requests for information on the child's religious upbringing. Mary denies those charges and accuses Peter and Sarah of gang-banging up on her and coopting "character assassination."

Mary, who is representing herself, sits on the edge of her seat throughout the proceeding while Tim Buckler,

That's partly because more Vermonters, both gay and straight, are creating families from "assisted reproductive technology," or ART.

Unfortunately, the law hasn't kept up with the science. As any local family lawyer will point out, Vermont has no statutes or case law that specifically address sperm donation, Burlington attorney Deb Lashman, who specializes in family law, says she always emphasizes to her clients that, even when all parties sign a contract, there's no guarantee a court will enforce it.

"In Vermont, you're treading on untested ground," Lashman explains. "There is no case law and there are no statutes about this stuff."

Fortunately, two weeks later, Mary and Sarah, who were then in a civil union, placed their own ad in *Seven Days*. It read "Two-men family seeking local donor to expand family. Will consider co-parenting. Healthy, degreed, professionally trained please."

In his delight, a probably worse-than-ideal way to find biological parent for their child, Peter's ad was read widely between one placed by a "Newly married, fun-loving GU looking for cute B&F to share in the good times", and another that read, "Indie rockers seeks naughty little girl that looks great in short for hours of snuffed screams."

Birth Rights

When a child has more than two parents, Vermont family law meets a new frontier
BY KEN PICARD

sperm and egg donors, gestational surrogates, and other quasi-parental figures — judges can find themselves trying to untangle Gordian knots.

Consider the case being heard on a Tuesday afternoon on mid-May as a woman, whom we'll call "Mary," enters Courtroom 2 for a status conference related to her long-running legal battle with her former civil-union partner, "Sarah," and their daughter's biological father, "Peter" (because of the sensitivity of custody cases, we have chosen not to use their real names).

Sarah, the child's biological mother, wears a polo shirt, shorts and sneakers. Mary sits down on her right, dressed professionally in a long-sleeved shirt and black slacks on Sarah's left. In Peter, who, like his attorney, wears a dark suit, Peter deposits a cardboard box on the table labeled "Mary." It's full of files, hinting at the protracted nature of their legal wrangling.

The purpose of this conference is to decide whether a future hearing is warranted to address a contempt-of-court action. Eight years ago, before Sarah and Mary

Peter's lawyer, dominates the discussion. Judge Thomas Zorzy is silent but firm, reminding Sarah of one point. "This is only a status conference."

Through it all, Sarah remains mostly silent. More than once the judge asks for her opinion. After a particularly heated exchange, he turns to her and remarks, "We keep coming back to you in the middle."

In the case of Peter, Sarah and Mary, there was no contest, either. The parties failed to prepare for the possibility that their three-way relationship could disintegrate. They never put the nature of Peter's role in writing. Is he a sperm donor? A noncustodial parent? A daddy? At this point, who's to say? Virtually the only way to plan the three parties' initial intentions is to go back to the clini-

cal. Mary and Sarah did get 12 responses, from which they interviewed five candidates. Ultimately, they selected Peter. In part, Mary says, because he was in a stable relationship and had already fathered two children. (Peter declined a request to be interviewed for this story, referring all questions to his lawyer. Sarah did not respond to phone messages.)

Mary and Sarah had met at church in Amarillo, Texas, in 1996. Later, they moved to Vermont, where they were joined in a civil union in 2000, shortly after the law establishing such unions took effect. Both Sarah and Mary already had children from previous relationships. In fact, it was because Mary's son was the product of an anonymous sperm donation that the wanted-a-known-donor clause came.

"My son always felt left out in his life, not knowing the man who conceived him," Mary explains. "We wanted somebody who would come to the birthday parties, the school concerts, come over for Christmas and Thanksgiving, and somebody for that child."

There is no case law and there are no statutes about this stuff.

DEB LASHMAN



Ultimately, Zorzy denies another hearing is warranted. All three parties will have to return to the district court to sort out the mess.

Three-way child-custody fights aren't just everyday occurrences in Vermont Family Court, but they do happen with increasing frequency

find ads they placed in *Seven Days* recently a decade ago — ads that eventually led to the child's birth.

In September 2002, Peter placed a personal ad that read "Want to have a baby? GWSM seeks lesbian/GU to have children with. Seeking non-custodial role. If you [sic] looking for a handsome, educated, stable, degreed and alcohol free guy to share raising babies, I'm your guy. Let's talk!"

to call 'daddy.' We wanted that man to know our child."

Though Mary isn't the girl's biological mother, she says she always assumed that having a baby in the context of a civil union — with her name on the child's birth certificate — was enough to ensure her status as a "parent" in the eyes of the law.

These so-called "maternal presumptions" is a well-established legal principle that, given the absence of state statutes regarding sperm donation, Peter, Sarah and Mary's arrangement was a gamble,

especially where a child's fate was concerned.

To wit: Tina Baubler, Peter's lawyer, has long contended that her client's constitutional rights as the girl's biological parent trump Mary's statutory right as a past party to a civil union. That Mary's name is on the girl's birth certificate "carries no weight," Baubler claims. As she definitely parent, "If you want to put Sarah's Chris on there, why can't you?"

Neither Mary nor Sarah has ever denied that Peter was more than just a source of DNA. He attended the baby's delivery, was there for

birthday parties and other events at the couple's home, and occasionally took the girl to his home overnight, along with Mary's son.

But Mary insists that she and Sarah were "very clear" with Peter that they were the girl's parents, that he was not a parent, and that they would never relinquish their rights and responsibilities to him. So why didn't the couple draw up a contract to that effect?

"To me, when a man gives his word, that's more sacred than any piece of paper," Mary explains. "I never imagined he'd seek custody. It just never crossed my mind."

In the summer of 2006, Mary and Sarah separated, a year later, Sarah filed for divorce. Before the papers were finalized, Peter filed a parentage action asking the court to

recognize him as the girl's legal and biological father. His petition named Sarah, the biological mother, who didn't contest it. Mary, who was not named in the petition, says she learned of it only after a court clerk happened to mention it to her.

"It was all supposed to go under the radar," Mary says. "And all of a sudden I wouldn't be a parent anymore."

Parentage: nature or nurture?

Reproduction was once a simple binary matter: one mother, one father. But the lines have been blurred by ART, which can include sperm or egg donation, in vitro fertilization, and gestational surrogacy (where a woman carries and gives birth to a baby for another person or couple without necessarily contributing her own egg to the process).

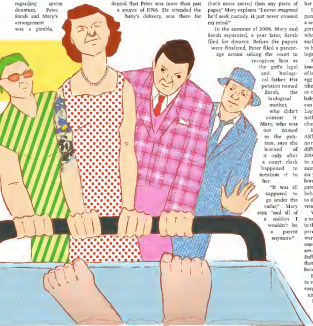
It's now conceivable — pardon the pun — that a couple could contract with a separate sperm donor, egg donor and gestational surrogate to produce a baby, where the couple would then adopt. In such a scenario, few people could claim to be "parents" and seek the standard legal rights and responsibilities.

Sound far-fetched? There are already known cases, in Vermont and elsewhere, of lesbian couples who have contracted an egg from one partner, which is then fertilized by a sperm donor and implanted in the other partner, who carries the baby to term. Arguably, all three parties can call themselves "biological" parents. Legal experts say Vermont law has done nothing to keep up with these rapidly changing realities.

How many families are created by ART in Vermont? Because the state has no reason to track most of those data, it's difficult to say. It is known that, between 2006 and 2011, 49 babies were born to same-sex couples in Vermont, presumably using ART. During that same six-year period, another 40 babies were born in Vermont to gestational surrogates, including 12 who were carried on behalf of same-sex couples, according to the Department of Health's Vermont vital-statistics system.

While those numbers still represent a tiny fraction of the 26,572 babies born to the Green Mountain State during that period, they don't include babies who were adopted by same-sex couples, or ones who were born to one of state's same-sex couples who later moved to Vermont. Softer, it says, family-law experts suggest that such "unconventional" families have become, well, more conventional.

How does state law decide whom to recognize as parents? The answer is easy in the case of married and civil-union couples who are still together: In the eyes of the law, both partners are presumed to be the parents, regardless of who is genetically related to the child.



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Birth Rights

That's not the case when biological parents are unseated. In Vermont, single mothers aren't required to notify the father on the birth certificate. Even when an unmarried bio dad is named on the birth certificate and the child bears his name, he must file a paternity action in court before he can assert the legal rights and responsibilities of fatherhood.

Vermont law does presume that the woman who gives birth to the child is the biological mother, even when her own egg was not involved. In postconception-surrogacy cases, the birth mom's name actually appears on the original birth certificate, and a petition to amend it is filed after the baby is born. In some other states, including Massachusetts, courts can adjudicate that the intended parents are the legal parents before the baby is born. This measure helps prevent some of the legal battles that occurred in the 1990s when birth surrogacy first became more common.

What happens when a same-sex union dissolves? The same thing that happens when a heterosexual couple splits up: The parties file for divorce, and a judge must approve a settlement that addresses any minor children, includ-

ing the Liberty Counsel, an outgrowth of Jerry Falwell's Liberty University that provides free legal assistance in defense of "Christian religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and the traditional family." Lisa Miller asked Virginia to recognize her as Isabelle's sole parent.

In 2003, a Vermont judge dissolved the civil union, divided the couple's assets and ordered parent-child contact between Janet Jenkins (the surrogacy mom) and her daughter. The following year, the Virginia Supreme Court agreed, ordering Miller to honor Vermont's visitation order. When Miller refused, a Vermont court granted Jenkins full custody.



**I always try to make people aware
that this isn't just about them.
You are creating a child who
won't always be an infant.**

KURT HUGHES

Jenkins, who was represented by the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) — the same organization that initially represented Mary — ultimately prevailed in court. To date, it's been a hollow victory. In January 2000, Miller was supposed to transfer custody of Isabelle to Jan Kim but never showed up. She reportedly fled the country with the girl and is believed to be living in Central America.

Kurt Hughes, a family lawyer with the Burlington firm of Whanook Hughes & Young, explains that the primary reason Jenkins won her case before the Virginia Supreme Court is that a Vermont judge had already granted her parental-visitation rights. Under the

Full Faith and Credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, Virginia had an obligation to recognize the Virginia judge's order. Had that visitation order not existed, Hughes says, Virginia probably would have viewed Jenkins as legal nonentity.

Over his 20 years of practicing family law, Hughes says, he's noticed both adoption and ART "wreathing" away from anonymous surrogacy, and he believes "the biggest driver is that people want a genetic connection to their child."

But once a couple involves a known donor in their lives, Hughes cautions, whether seeking just his or her genetic material or something more, "that's when things become most dangerous."

"I always try to make people aware that this isn't just about them," Hughes says. "You are creating a child who won't always be an infant, who will have psychological needs as they grow up. And there's a deep-seated need for all of us to know where we come from."

Julie Feldman has spent a lot of time pondering such questions. The 30-year-old Burlington resident is practically a poster child for the full spectrum of alternative parenting arrangements, and his wife has a biological son together. He adopted his wife's biological daughter, who was conceived before

any custody, visitation rights, education, religious upbringing and so forth. When the couple can't reach an agreement, their case either goes to mediation or before a judge.

Casualty insurers can get tricky when same-sex partners separate and relocate to a state that doesn't recognize their original union. That's what happened in Vermont's most infamous parent-child rights fight, the Miller-Jenkins case.

In 2003, civil-union partners Janet Miller-Jenkins and Lisa Miller-Jenkins separated. Lisa moved to Virginia with the couple's daughter, Isabelle, and then became a born-again Christian, renounced her lesbian lifestyle and filed for divorce. With the help of attorneys

their marriage to the product of an anonymous sperm donation. And before he and his wife met, Feldman donated sperm to a lesbian couple in Wisconsin — several Days associate publisher and online editor Cathy Keener and her partner, Ann-Fine Johnson. Johnson has also served as a gestational surrogate for a third couple, but that's another story.

Feldman says he spent several months mulling with the implications of becoming a biological parent to a child he wouldn't raise. What would be in the child's best interest? What if the child wanted a closer relationship than he was comfortable with, or none at all? "Whatever my intent, I know the

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child is going to have his or her own feelings," Fishbein says. "We'll want to be flexible with what might be good for me... and change my mind?"

Fishbein sought the advice of friends, family members, lawyers and other known donors — especially to research how things could go wrong. Some family members raised legal and financial concerns: Would the couple persevere him one day for child support? Would the child seek Fishbein's family's assets? Would he want a say in the child's upbringing?

Despite such concerns, Fishbein and the couple decided to proceed, and hired Burlington attorney Deb Luskman to draw up a contract. Because of the antiquity around enforcement of such agreements, she also recommended that the nongenitological mom — Reuser — undertake a supervised adoption once the child was born. That way, whenever the family travels outside Vermont, other states will recognize her as a legal "mother," regardless of biology.

In addition, Luskman advised her clients to be very clear about the legal status of the donor's parental involvement.

"The more you put in the agreement that the donor is going to be part of that child's life, the more you open up the window for that person to assert legal rights and other kinds of custody and responsibilities," she explains. "It's easier to close that window than to try to open it later."

Indeed, Fishbein acknowledges that his feelings for his genetic offspring have evolved over time. In his role as more than a sperm donor but less than a father, he sees his two children at least twice a month. They and his own custodial kids play together regularly and think of one another as cousins, though Fishbein admits the two couples don't have a lot of "formal language" describing their relationship beyond "they're family."

Are three parents better than two?

What happens to ART-assisted parents who don't prepare for unexpected developments? After the dissolution of Mary and Sarah's civil union reached all a flurry of legal filings, the Mary-Sarah-Peter case eventually arrived at an uneasy truce. (Just how uneasy is indicated by the ongoing hearings three years later.) In 2009, a judge agreed that Mary was a mother to the child and divided custody between the two women. But Peter wasn't out of the girl's life.

His lawyer, Tim Buckner, believes the case "would have ended up in the US Supreme Court. That's the noise we were going." However, the says, his client chose to settle for the best interests of the child.

"From [Peter's] perspective, he secured what he was looking for initially in this case," Buckner adds, "which is recognition that he is the biological parent of this child and has an absolute, constitutional right to contact. And in some cases his contact trumps the other party's [Mary's] right to contact."

Karen Loewy, senior staff attorney with GLAD in Boston, sharply disagrees with Buckner's assessment.

"That is not what constitutional law says," she argues. "Biology does not make you a parent. Something more does."

In fact, Loewy says the Mary-Sarah-Peter case is more than just a custody-style battle about couples who conceive a child through ART without legal representation.

"The thing I found really fascinating about this case and similar cases is, you have two clear, intended parents, and the one with the genetic connection to the child seeks to cut out the other parent," Loewy says. "To me, that's what this case was all about."

But fixing legal loopholes will prove difficult. None of the parties interviewed for this story was enthusiastic about the idea of the Vermont Legislature wading into such matters. Loewy says that, in her experience, "Legislatures and assisted-reproductive technologies are not good partners."

Hughes agrees. "Once the legislature gets a hold of something," he says, "you never know what the hell is going to happen."

In the absence of statutes or legal precedent, such custody fights in Vermont will continue to be decided case by case. For now, Mary says, she is just relieved that a family-court judge recognizes her as a legal mother. But she says establishing that relationship came at a high price to everyone, including her daughter.

For now, Mary's "victory" is strictly her own, as her case creates no new legal precedent. Which means that the next Vermont family that goes to court to determine who qualifies as "parents" — be they two, three or more of them — may have to fight the same legal battle. And as one local mediator put it, "A judge can't order people to get along or make good decisions."

6 *Child Welfare contributed to this story.*

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SPORT

For the Love of the Game

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger plays hardball

BY DAN ROLLES

All baseball fans know the exact moment they fell in love with the game. For hardball diehards, it's a formative life experience not unlike a first kiss or the day you get your driver's license. For Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger, it was a moment shared by generations of New England baseball fans: the first time he saw Fenway Park.

"It's a magical experience," recalls Weinberger. "That moment when you see the field for the first time, maybe under the lights, the whiffness of the green. I was really taken by that."

Since his introduction to Fenway 30-odd years ago, Weinberger says baseball has been a constant in his life. He played Little League as a kid and attended Ted Williams' baseball camps

He played ball throughout high school in Woodstock. After graduation, he spent a summer working every magazine ballpark in the country and writing a seasonal series for the *Valley News*. At Yale, Weinberger was the baseball team's radio play-by-play announcer. He went on to cover baseball as an intern for the *Boston Globe*.

Now, the 43-year-old mayor is the catcher for the Burlington Cardinals, a position he's played for the past five seasons. The team is part of the Vermont Men's Senior Baseball League, which in turn is affiliated with a national organization. Players have to be at least 35 to play, 45 to pitch. The Cardinals' medley crew includes a policeman, an engineer and a dancer, among other professionals. It also includes

Galvin Carr, a scout for the Boston Red Sox, Tom Simon, a Burlington attorney and author of several books on baseball history, and an old Red Sox hero, Bill "Specimen" Lee. And now, a newly anointed mayor.

"What else but baseball would bring these guys together?" Weinberger asks.

Playball!

On a recent Sunday afternoon, the Cardinals are squaring off against the Waterbury Warthogs at Harwood Union High School in Montpelier. Before the game, several Warthogs snag fly balls in the outfield. By the top dugout, a shirtless man wears up by pie-throwing a hot, cigarette dangling from his mouth above a sizable belly.

When it's the Cardinals' turn for pregame hitting practice, most of them have yet to arrive, including Weinberger. Two Cards clad in red jerseys play catch along the first baseline.

"I think we've only got those right now," says one of them, tossing the ball.

"Well, maybe those guys will jump in and snag flies," says the other, nodding to the Waterbury dugout. "Unless they're already into the beer." It's not quite noon.

Eventually, enough Cardinals arrive and the game gets under way, though the mayor is still a no-show. Fortunately, the team's starting pitcher shows up as time

"I'm pretty sure I threw about 180 pitches yesterday," says lefty Lee, rotating his left shoulder slowly. "Maybe 200."

Lee, who now lives in Chillsbury, was an energetic all-star pitcher for the Sox and Montreal Expos and is renowned for his exploits both on and off the field. Lee has just driven back from Tucson, where he spent the previous day doing a charity event and playing "Toby Ball"—a hybrid softball/hardball game that he invented.

The Cards pump out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, thanks to a ground-rule double by Lee that hits and then scots under the right-field fence. At the end of the half inning, the 66-year-old grubs his glove and looks out to right field.

"Just missed it," he says, before maneuvering to the pitching mound.

Burlington Cardinals: 2, Waterbury Warthogs: 0, bottom of the second inning

Downstage into the game, Weinberger's arrival is probably not quite as far with the first time he walked into Fenway Park, as he descends the hill to the field, a heavy bag filled with catcher's gear slung over his shoulder, he's grinning from ear to ear.

"Nice day for a game, huh? I say in greeting."

"It sure is," he agrees, beaming as he heads toward the dugout along the first baseline. In the field, the Warthogs push across a run on a hard opposite field single, following a double to the gap. But the Cardinals get out of the inning on a comebacker to Lee, who fields the ball cleanly and fires to second to upsize a 1-0-2 double play. As they trot off the field, Weinberger's teammates greet him with high fives and fist bumps.

"Nice of you to make it, Miro," chides an infielder.

Weinberger's first at bat comes in the top of the next inning. He takes the first pitch for a ball, just before the lights

After a tremendous flip that almost dislocates his very frame into the ground, he eventually works the count full on a pitch up around his eyeballs, swinging from his heels on the next pitch, he strikes out and scuttles back to the dugout.

"You're drifting into the ball," advises Leo as Weinberger straps up his shin guards. "Your shoulder is coming open and you're not drifting."

"No!" Leo and takes up his post behind home plate.



Cardinals: 5, Warthogs: 1, bottom of the third inning

Weinberger is crouched behind the plate flanking Leo as Leo, who shakes him off. So he tries another sign, with the same result. Finally, the burly southpaw nods on the third sign and goes into his windup. The pitch is located just up the middle, a searching line drive that finds its way into center for a leadoff single. Free swing in his hand, Weinberger scuttles to the mound. After a brief exchange with Leo, he returns to the plate.

Three batters later, the slide is refined, the Waterbury runner left stranded at first. Leo is picking well and throwing hard. He says he can still hit 80 miles per hour on a good day—read not the

day after throwing 200 pitches in a charity game—and has about six different pitches, including his famed "Loophole," a lollipop curveball.

"It's a game changer," says Weinberger of his honorary name. In between innings, Leo is stretching on the sidelines. Asked if Weinberger got any about being shaken off now that he's the mayor, Leo says, "Oh, yeah," rolling his eyes. "But I told him, now that he's mayor, I got five parking in Burlington."

Weinberger chuckles when told the Spaceman's response.

"Two years ago, in the playoffs, we were playing Charlotte, who were really good," he says. The game was at Cribbatt Park in Burlington, where the Cards play their home games. "It was early in the game and we were working this guy, their best hitter." Weinberger says he called for an inside fastball. Leo shook him off. "He wanted no throw a curve," he recalls.

Leo threw the curveball and the Charlotte batter swung. "He hit it about right miles," says Weinberger, grinning. "After that, Bill said, 'All right, I'm not gonna shake you off anymore.'"

Cardinals: 5, Warthogs: 2, top of the fifth inning

In his second at bat, Weinberger hits a weak grounder to short. But he handles down the line and reaches base safely when the shortstop bounces the throw to first. Three batters later and with two runners on, first baseman Adam Chavoyed, a 28-year-old DIIA again by field, crushes a towering home run to left field. Leo is up next and swings hard, connecting on a hit fastball.

"Ah, I just missed it," he again exclaims as he begins trotting down the first baseline.

"Well, it's out!" repeats the first-base coach. Leo looks up just in time to see the ball land in the woods beyond the right-field fence for a solo home run.

The Cardinals score four runs in the inning to take a 9-2 lead and break the game open.

"I told my wife that every time I lost a home run, I have to play another year," says Leo after he rounds the bases. "Guess I'll be back next season."

Cardinals: 21, Warthogs: 2, final

The defending-champion Cardinals hardly dispatch the Waterbury side to improve to 5-0. Weinberger goes 3-4 but reaches base and scores three times. The Cards are undefeated and riding an off-season hot streak, having scored at least

WHAT ELSE BUT BASEBALL WOULD BRING THESE GUYS TOGETHER?

MIRO WEINBERGER

10 runs in each of their first five games. Especially with Leo turning back time, both on the mound and in the plate, they appear poised for another title run.

"This is the best group of guys I've ever played with," says Leo, who, by the way, pitched Game 7 of the 1975 World Series for the Boston Red Sox.

Postgame interview, two days later

"I really fell hard for baseball right around age 6," says Weinberger, seated behind the desk in his new city-hall office. "I wasn't very good at first," he concedes. So he practiced. Inconspicuously Weinberger says he "love his parents' dad" holding tennis balls off the beam for hours on end. "The house looked like it was disintegrating," he says. "It had all these postmarks from where I'd bounce balls off it."

In 1993, his junior year of high school, that practice would pay off. Weinberger was the second baseman for Woodstock Union High's varsity baseball team.

"We were the ninth seed in the tournament that year," Weinberger says. His team's unlikely title run. In the second round, the Waups drew top-seeded

Winstock. At the time, heavily favored Winstock was a baseball powerhouse that would send 10 players from the 1997 squad on to play college baseball. One of them, starter Denis Perreault, became one of the top pitchers in the history of the University of Vermont.

"I think I got caught up in the three runs in 42 innings that year," recalls Weinberger of Winstock's starter. Winstock scored in the first inning and led 14-0 most of the game. But in the late innings, Woodstock mounted a rally. Weinberger stepped up to the plate and dug in against Perreault with the bases loaded.

"That's a weak grounder to second, but beat it out for an infield hit and we tied the game," Weinberger says. With bases loaded, the team's cleanup hitter came to the plate. Perreault left behind 1-0 and grooved a fastball on the next pitch.

"I'll always remember that as one of the most beautiful moments of my life," says Weinberger. "He swung and it's just this magical air." The ball landed in a swimming pool just beyond the fence—a grand slam. Woodstock would hold on to win 6-4 and take the state championship.

One gets the sense that baseball is rarely far from Weinberger's thoughts, even though, these days, proving city status for honor for his attention. But every now and then, the worlds of sports and politics merge.

During his mayoral campaign, Weinberger ran a baseball day camp in the North End, with the help of some Cardinals teammates—including Leo. Given how closely connected that race was, it's fair to surmise that every effort during the campaign might have had some impact on the ball field.

"There is a part of me that likes to think baseball played a small role in [me] becoming mayor," Weinberger admits.

It's also playing a role in his first term. UVM and the Vermont Lake Monsters recently reached an agreement to allow the minor-league team to call Centennial Field home for the next 20 years. That agreement means that the state's high school baseball tournament could also return to the field this season. It had been played there only occasionally about the park's future meant moving the location to Montpelier for the past three seasons.

"I got to go in the press conference announcing the letters in the newly elected mayor who had won a championship there," says Weinberger. At the presser, Jim Carter, the coach of that 1997 Winstock team, approached the mayor. He was holding a baseball.

"He said, 'Do you know what this ball is?'" says Weinberger. "I said, 'What is it a winning postcard?'"

Men of the House

Meet the stay-at-home dads who traded careers for caregiving

BY ERIK ESKILDSEN

The traditional image of the American father has been under revision for decades — at least long enough to make TV's first father, Ward Cleaver, look like a nostalgic caricature and his latter-day "Bad Men" counterpart, Don Draper, a pointed example of the bad old days of meat, potatoes and patriarchy.

Women entering the U.S. workforce after the Second World War changed American culture. Then, when the U.S. economy took a nosedive about five years ago, the genre changed again — this time boosting men out of the workplace at twice the rate of women, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One combined effect of women holding jobs and men being forced out of them is that men are increasingly responsible for managing — households. An analysis of 2008 U.S. census data finds that 20 percent of fathers with children under age 6 are the primary child caretakers in their families.

Here's what seven of them have to say about it.



Mark Gabel
South Burlington

When his first daughter was about a year old, Mark Gabel did the math and realized that "my salary was paying the nanny." His physician wife was the family's major breadwinner; Gabel had been in retail sales and management for roughly 20 years — most recently at downtown Burlington's Chubb High outdoor gear store. The combination had worked well, he says, "when it was just about us." But when his daughter entered her second year, he had a revelation: "I looked up one day and said, 'This is crazy.'" He recalls: "My kids a year old, I hardly know her. I was watching myself because my father with no benefit! Seriously."

On a walk with preschooler Simon Weiss, of Teaching the Wild Ones, Gabel

got more inspiration to change course. He remembers being moved by "Yoda" taught that his only regret was about what he hadn't done, not what he had.

Gabel gave notice at Chubb High and settled in for an extended stay at home camp.

While the initial plan was for him to stay home until his daughter was in kindergarten, a second child changed the equation. Gabel made good use of his stay-at-home dad time to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees from Champlain College, the latter as MS in education and applied conflict studies that he hopes will help him reenter the workforce.

He admits there are tough parts, such as the "hunkering" experience of being a husband who doesn't bring home the bacon, and being the odd man out — literally — at baby steps. There's also doing laundry seven days a week and a workday that, by his estimate, starts at 6 a.m. the morning and ends at 10 p.m.

But he still feels like he's getting the better end of the parenting deal because of the bond he has established with his kids: "You sit day goody when I don't feel like the bestest guy since," he says, "even when someone is throwing tantrums."

Brendan Smith

St. Albans

When Brendan Smith and his three-year-old daughter, they held a series of national no-down talks about switching

roles. There was more at stake than the traditional expectations related to gender: Smith is visually impaired. He's not totally blind, but he can't operate a motor vehicle.

At first, Smith was pretty nervous — and understandably so. If his child were to choose on something, would he be able to see what it was? When they had a second child, he worries about what would happen if the kids took off in opposite directions.

Smith made it through those months before years by concentrating on doing the best he could. He engaged his kids in activities that didn't require driving anywhere. "I took it upon myself to take a negative and work around it," he says, "to get them out, go far walks with them, take them where I could go. Push them on the swings. But with them. Make up for the lack of transportation. I've even taken them on the bus a few times, and they seem to get a kick out of that."

In fact, he's very. Feeling the financial pinch, Smith went back to work part-time at Hinesford supermarket, but he's still there to greet his kids at the bus on school days. He and his wife divorced about a year and a half ago, but there hasn't been much conflict over parental rights.

"My kids are comfortable home, they have a lot of friends, and they get into a lot of sports and do a lot of community stuff," he says.



Brendan Smith with his daughter, Chase D. Smith, 3, in St. Albans, Vt.

He also gives himself some much-deserved credit: "It's hard enough being a single parent in this day and age, anyway, but an even greater challenge to be able to handle children on your own when you're limited yourself," he says. "I've been able to rise to the challenges, and I think I've done reasonably well."

Michael Wheeler

Medford



Michael Wheeler and his daughter, Emily, in Medford, N.J.

Michael Wheeler and his wife couldn't decide who should be the primary daytime caregiver for their first child. But it just about the time that their daughter called around, late made the decision for them: The UVM laboratory where Wheeler had been working shut down. Coincidentally, he had already been mulling over whether being a stay-at-home dad would be a "cool thing to do."

As his daughter developed food allergies and then a son came into the picture, his decision proved wise: "I thought that I might go back to work after a while," he says, "but I'm thinking that less and less."

It's something of a redo for Wheeler, who became a dad for the first time in the '70s. When his older daughters — now the mothers of his grandchildren — were born, he was working as a chemistry teacher at a small college. His busy work life didn't allow him to be as present as he would have liked. "It's in the nature of the day that kids really become who they are, and I certainly didn't experience that like I am now."

PHOTO: DAVID HARRIS



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Men of the House

When it comes to parenting wisdom, "I consider myself a rock rookie."

Being an older stay-at-home dad, he has to be vigilant in avoiding the occupational hazards of parenting. "I was sort of a young dad when my older kids were born," he says. "I don't have a recollection of being tired or holding a 20-pound child all the time, but now I do. I've had to learn to be careful with the way I hold them and pick them up."

Still, he adds, being close at hand while his kids are growing has been a revitalizing experience. "It's just an amazing thing to watch a human being develop into a person, and it's diagnostic inroads to see our oldest kid start to figure things out and ask insightful questions and make funny mistakes and all that kind of stuff," he says. "So even though my body feels older, my spirit is younger than it was before they were born."

Shem Roose

Richmond



Shem Roose with daughter, Sylvia.

At the pinnacle of his career as a snowboarding photographer, Shem Roose followed the world's top riders wherever they roamed from January to May. By the time his daughter, Sylvia, was born in 2003, however, he was already starting to burn out on his jet-setting job. With his wife working full time at MyWebGreen, he decided to take a run at being a stay-at-home dad.

Despite possessing all the organizational skills required to shoot in hard-to-get-to places, Roose was surprised by how difficult it was "just keeping up with all of the stuff that needs to be done around the house," he says, such as cooking and doing the laundry. "It really took me a while to prep," he adds. "If we were going to go swimming, that was a challenge for me, to make sure I had everything." Leaving two miles up a dirt road raised the stakes. "Because

of where we live, once you leave the house, you really don't want to forget anything," he says.

Roose cultivated a freelance photography business when his kids were sleeping. Still, the memory of how high he'd climbed in his career haunted him for a while. "I would have periods where I would feel like, 'God, I just don't feel like a man,'" he remembers. "I was doing dishes and vacuuming and folding laundry and taking care of the kids. I was kind of wondering, 'When does this end or what's next?' - I felt lost for a while."

Add to that the financial strain of living on a single income, unequal time with the kids and the isolation of rural living.

Roose eventually found his groove, arranging play dates with other dads and organizing trips to the Echo Lake Aquarian and Senior Center and libraries. Roose and his wife also enrolled in the Parenting on Track workshop, which he says has been helpful in his mediating squabbles between his kids.

For the dad contemplating taking on the role of primary caregiver, Roose recommends, "Be ready for the role of your life. Being parent at the lady if you're the type of guy that doesn't have a lot of patience and a lot of energy then it's just going to wear you down."

Matt Howes

Fayston



Matt Howes with son Owen, 14, and daughter Morgan, 12.

Matt Howes was working part time as a school bus driver when his first son was born. The single car seat installed behind him in the bus soon became three, as his second son and daughter joined the family. Eventually, he was dropping them all off at school.

The gig came with benefits, though not the kind associated with traditional employment. "One of the joys is I get to hug my kids every day when they get home from school," he says. "I know my kids. My kids know me... That's what's important to me."

Howes now works part time as a graduate technician, but continues to be the primary caregiver in the family. It was

a practical choice: As his wife advanced in her career as a social worker, she had the potential to make more money than he did.

Naturally, there have been some bumps in the road, especially when blowed with bugs pursuing a graduate degree. "I remember stepping up to the mat at 10 o'clock at night one night and just looking at piles of dishes, and my wife was at one of her night classes," he recalls. "I just remember going, 'Holy crap! I didn't realize kids could be this much work. I was just outclouded! At a really weak moment I was like, 'Nobody ever told me this.' I almost had a pity party for a moment then."

There are other difficult aspects to being a stay-at-home dad in a fairly rural locale. Playgroups are "scotty" he says, complicated by the difficulty of arranging play dates with stay-at-home moms. "A guy going to a different woman's house or a woman coming to my house — it doesn't happen," he says. "It's too social...and expensive."

Hines acknowledges occasionally wondering what his own career will achieve, but he says he's not in a hurry. "You only have a certain amount of time to influence the kids and raise them up the best way you can," he says. "I'm going to enjoy being with my kids as long as they enjoy my hours with them."

Tom Schieker

His mother said that



Tom Schacker followed his college-professor wife to Vermont in 2006, when their twin daughters were 2. The toddler years presented challenges well beyond what every parent is prepared to meet.

Sylvie has an extremely rare degenerative neurological condition, Krabbe disease, symptoms of which include

severe sensory and motor impairment, difficulty swallowing, and frequent inures. Only between 10 and 20 percent of kids with Krabbe live past their second birthday.

"Being forced daily to confront the uncertainty that we all face, but are able to ignore, is front and center all the time," Schochet says.

Schäfer became a stay-at-home dad to care for Sylvie. It's enabled him to design days that allow his two daughters to do as much together as possible — a goal that has become harder to achieve in recent months as Sylvie has experienced increasing medical issues.

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WHEN I DON'T FEEL
LIKE THE LUCKIEST GUY ALIVE.
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School fits the bill. Sylvie and her closest friend, Unea, are kindergartners at the Sustainability Academy at Lawrence House in Burlington's Old North End. "We have a nice chance to walk to and from school," Schickler says. He praises the school faculty and staff, who are "super at trying their best to keep Sylvie involved in the class."

One of *Sylvie's* part-time personal care assistants is also her in-school instructional assistant, and Uma is in the same class and often at her sister's side. "She's wonderful, smart, so she's got to be aware of what's going on," Schickler says of Uma. "At the moment she doesn't treat her sister as ill, which I just love. I try to create that as much as possible, even when it seems like she's psychotic. That's kind of how I want to view Sylvie, too. She's kind of sane, she is."

One of their favorite stress-reducing activities is baking. With Sylvie in a stroller—a device designed to help her strengthen her joints—she can watch her father and sister making proteins, while she touches the ingredients. “Those are some of my happiest moments,” Schlicher says, adding both girls enjoy eating what they make, too. “That’s when I feel like a success. Sylvie goes bakes being around people who love her. That’s what we work for now.” ☐



The easy, elegant, upper extremity June issue of *Hand V7* arrives complete here in recognition of Teachers' Day.

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SUP's On

Riding the groundswell of stand-up paddleboarding in the Green Mountains

BY SARAH TUFF

It's the sort of evening when you look at Lake Champlain and wish you had a boat, or a friend with a boat. Just enough wind blows to sparkle the glassy surface while the Burlington breakwater, while the rising sun glows chestnut-orange, sinking out at 50-degree day.

At the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, we don't have a boat, but we do have some new friends: a gathering tribe of stand-up paddleboarders who, like many, have discovered a whole new view of Vermont. Standing on wide, stable boards with our feet facing forward, paddling on either side to propel ourselves, we aren't cramped in kayaks or tapping in canoes. We're gliding across the water, able to see a different perspective while also getting in a darn good workout.

Though stand-up paddleboarding, or SUP, hit the state's waters several years ago, the first-of-its-kind annual 2012 marks a watershed moment for the sport here, and for a coexisting community. This debut of the *Weekend Night SUPer Club*—a loose affiliation of enthusiasts—is just one sign of the rising tide.

This month, the WND4WVS shop, the only local store dedicated to SUP, opened in Burlington, a June 21 SUP demo at

Koon's Indian Brook Reservoir sold out. The first-ever SUP festival at Waterbury Reservoir is scheduled for June 24, while organizers of *September's* Island Trip for the Lake's benefits at the LCBC are hoping to make it a water-centric attraction.

That's not all. Some of Vermont's SUPers are tackling white water on the Mad River. An Essex entrepreneur has developed a trier that Haverhill (who invented the sport) are using to practice their SUP skills indoors. And it's hard to shake a paddle without hitting a Chittenden County outdoor store that sells stand-up paddleboards—and scrambles to keep them in stock.

"A few years ago, nobody even asked about SUP boards," says Mike Strang, general manager at South Burlington's Canoe Imports. "Last year we couldn't get them fast enough, and this year we've doubled our order—and we're going to sell out."

I was bitten by the SUP bug in 2008, when I first wrote about the sport for this paper and bought a board. Inside then, I was a pretty wincey soul on the lake, and carried plenty of strange looks from passing motorists when they saw what looked like a surfboard on top of

my car. In those days, boards for sale were as scarce in Vermont as palm trees.

Fast-forward to 2012, when land-marks on those stores EMS and Outdoor Gear Exchange are selling SUPs. Canoe Imports and Store's Unalut Outdoor Outfitters each stock 10 different models; Unalut's Steve Henshaw exports his SUP business to triple this spring and summer. High-tech models with displacement hulls make possible long flat-water expeditions (Jed's, Hudson River and Montreal), while

hybrid boards allow you to paddle Lake Champlain, surf Hurricane Beach and winch the Dominican Republic Bay (on large enough, and you can fit the dog or the kid on the board).

When longtime surfer and SUPer Russ Scully decided to design an entire Pine Street store around stand-up paddleboarding, he was inspired by those possibilities and a passion for water sports. At WND4WVS, new and used boards are lined up alongside paddles, wet suits and a tri-hub checkout counter in an 800-square-foot corner of the building that houses New World TerraLife, South End Studio and SoHo (SoHo), who also own surf-style restaurant the

Spot, will move to a new, 1400-square-foot space in the old Minsky Car Care Center building in October.

While the shop also sells windsurfing gear and kiting equipment, Scully says its heart is SUP. "The growth curve is really steep right now," he says.

While Scully has imported Harsco's assistance to Vermont, Essex, importer developer Rob Stearnes, owner of Vasa, is importing a lot of Green Mountain stand-up culture to Chula. There, surf-shop owner Robert Strick has been using the Vasa engineer to train for SUP; this summer, Stearnes will begin marketing his SUP-specific Vasa products.

Vermonters may just need some extra training for the latest frontier in SUP: river trips, where white water can add another frisson to the sport. "Rivers are just awesome," says Colchester's Jason Stern, who runs PaddleStar! Champlain out of Burlington's Oakledge Park and has SUPped stretches of the Winooski, Lamoille and Mad rivers. "The speed—it's like you're on a flame rifle, but you're standing up."

For far more placid experiences, however, one of the latest hot spots is Waterbury Reservoir, where Unalut has been offering free Thursday-night

OUTDOORS



demerol of high-performance boards this month, and learn other SUP progress all summer. "In most cases, it's glossy smooth, with mountains dropping all around you," says Browner, who is helping to organize the Vermont Paddleboard Festival at the Waterbury Center State Park dog area on June 30. An avid paddler, he got hooked on SUP because of the unique vantage point. "It feels new and fresh because I can see deep in the water, I can see fish, I can see the bottom of the lake, and I have become more attentive to the scenery in the woods," Browner says.

It's a shared sentiment the feeling of gaining a new perspective, of freedom, of friendship. Though I've had many Zen-like experiences on solo SUP outings, it's more fun paddling alongside someone.

During my first Wednesday night SUP'ers club, several of us chat about everything from school to parenting to CrossFit to real estate to we glide past Splash at the Doghouse, and Breakwater Café & Grill.

What makes it so easy to open up? "SUP puts you in that state of mind where you're relaxed, and you share things that you might not otherwise if you were on land," explains Scully. "It's very rare that somebody comes off the

lake and tells you they wish they had spent that time doing something else. There's no more stress to get out on the water than SUP."

But there's one major barrier to fast accessibility as I found when I first tried the sport, cost. A new SUP board is on fetch up to \$3500 at Green Imports, the average price tag is around \$1800. While that's still far less than a boat—and while a well-made board can last for hundreds of outings—the sticker shock can run some away. That's why Star is partnering with local craftspeople to create handmade Vermont boards, why Scully is selling used boards at WNDa/Wk, and why Paddleout, Classic Imports, Unleash and LCCSC offer free demos, cheap rentals or both.

Want an even more casual vantage point on Lake Champlain or Waterbury Reservoir? Both the LCCSC and Unleash are offering yoga SUP classes this summer, so you can practice your downward dog while paddling downward.

"SUP fits really nicely with the skills you need for yoga, such as balance and core strength," says the LCCSC executive director Kate Neuhauer. She's overseeing preparations for the fourth annual Stand Up for the Lake! paddleboard festival on September 8 and hopes

to attract more than 500 paddlers from Burlington and beyond.

"It's about having people understand that they can positively influence the health of Lake Champlain," Neuhauer says of the event. "We have a right and a responsibility to recreate and keep it healthy. You play on the lake, you fall in love with the lake, and you take care of the things you love." ☺

Local Gear Exchange in Burlington offering variety SUP loans and demos on Thursdays, as well as by appointment for more info and signage visit gear.competedemo.com

Weekend Paddleboard Festival Tuesday June 24 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Waterbury Center State Park. A \$5 donation benefit all friends of the Reservoir River.

Stand Up for the Lake! Paddleboard Festival/Expo Saturday Sept. 8 at Regatta Center at Community College Center standupforthe lake.com

Lake Champlain Sailing Center communityimports.org

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Mate in America

Theater review: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

BY ERIC ECKHOLSEN



A moments on the drag scene in the mid-1990s must have reached a breaking point in their desperation: How else to explain the popularity of *The Ruks*, Ellen Page and Sherry Schneider's best-selling companion of *Time*-tested *Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right*, published in 1997? The next year saw the U.S. premiere of the comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a satirical musical revue about the trials and tribulations of seeking a soul mate.

Of these two Clinton-era trinkets on the hard-luck life of homosexual onnae — *The Ruks* and *I Love You* — the comedy may be the more illuminating. It has certainly proved more durable. While some critics deemed *The Ruks* outdated — even anticlimactic — on its initial publication, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* was for more than 2000 performances before closing in 2008, making it the second-longest-running Off-Broadway musical in history. (The Fantasticks holds the record.) To call the show a hit is like calling Facebook a popular website.

The current production of *I Love You* at East Nelson Theater in Montpelier gives us a chance to see it in perspective. While the show may speak most clearly to the lavender, anyone who has endured the rigors of romantic companionship can appreciate the success of playwright/lyricist Joe DiPietro and composer Jimmy Roberts in turning heartache into humor. The play is as resonant today as it was when Mark Zuckerman was still in junior high school.

That the LNT staging of *I Love You* avoids feeling, or, dated is a testament both to the play and the players. A revue with more than 30 sketches and musical numbers, it presents the quest for love in short riffs on a range of topics — from first dates to old flames, from tying the knot to the sex lives of married couples with children. Each vignette tackles a familiar obstacle on the road to love, together, they form a sequence that adheres only loosely to a story line. The first act culminates at the altar with "Wedding Vows." The second act explores the aftermath, with sketches

on married life, parenthood, dating after divorce and even dating after a spouse's death. Because this boy-meets-girl story is not about a single boy and girl, the show achieves a certain degree of universality — as the North American context — inviting thespians to connect with the comedy wherever they can, if not with the work as a whole.

Under the direction of Tim Toner, the LNT scenes play the dating/trating game with gusto. When dating is going very well, it's a giddy contact sport — a pillow fight with romantic dommy. When it's not going well, it can now double, sorrow and bitterness — all at once. To shift these emotional gears rapidly is the challenge confronting any cast of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and it's made all the more difficult by the fact that only four actors play dozens of parts. The LNT cast is eminently up to this test, demonstrating the single most important prerequisite strategy.

Talent appears uniformly spread among the troupe of two women, Taryn, Noelle, and Natalie Miller, and two men, Michael Karmaker and Shawn Sturdevant. They're all solid, if not superb, singers, and their love come, turning, given the show's premise. The sketch "Who's Who Talk and the Women Who Pretend They're Listening" stands out for its especially sharp skewering of male self-aggrandizement on dates. The bit segues nicely into two funny song variations on this theme — Noelle and Miller's "Single Man Drought" and their male counterparts' "Why? Cause I'm a Guy."

Toner's players quickly conjure a respectable measure of chemistry with each other, even as they speed through the revolving door of romantic encounters that defines the play.

As a lampoon of modern love, *I Love You* may not strive for great emotional depth, but it requires considerable acting range to embody characters all along the romantic spectrum, including children, parents and senior citizens. Noelle and Sturdevant demonstrate that in one of the show's few positively contemplative moments, which also happens to be its most original take on dating in "Parents Are for Dating" the two actors play fictional guests — a

widow and widower, respectively — who arise on a mournful moment to make a life size. The sketch calls on the pair to downshift emotional gears from earlier numbers while still letting us see muted sparks fly between them.

Musical director Nancy Hartswick keeps the show moving on the heels of her solo piano and shifts musical moods from one beat to the next — from crummy pop stylings to more optimistic waltzes to tangos. On opening night, Hartswick and cast fell out of rhythm a few times, but her single instrument managed to buoy the revue aloft with aplomb.

The simple orchestration complements similarly minimalist approaches to set design and costumes. A few pieces of furniture and changes of clothes relocate the story from one place and time to another. Staghounds dressed like Charlie Chaplin clones emphasize the meeting of the stage by rolling new scene titles into place in a window above the production area.

While there are no star notes per se in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a few sketches stand out over "Satisfaction," an absurd piece about housing litigation into the bedroom, and "Scared Straight," in which a lonely prison inmate (Sturdevant) warns two single souls (Miller and Karmaker) against the evils of going a date, are too scary to tag true.

Even at the show's weakest moments, the cast of *I Love You* never lets up. Their emotional circumstances become more complex in the second act, but enthusiasm remains high. These four players merit respect, like that lovers' demand, for forging ahead through tricky terrain. Their backstage area could use a few towels, the better to mink their exorcisms from scene to scene. But *Forever — for jobs well done* — would not be out of place. **D**

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Taste Test: Sherpa Kitchen

BY ALICE LEVITT

"Have you been to *Jam Fort* yet?" Lajpa Lama asked as he poured me a cup of milky chutney. I was waiting to pick up my lunch order at Sherpa Kitchen, Burlington's first Himalayan restaurant, and co-owner Lama had welcomed me to the counter to sit down and make conversation over a cup of spiced tea with brown sugar. It was on the house because my order was a little larger than expected, but I didn't mind waiting in the company of such a gracious host.

When I brought my lunch back to the office and examined the color-out card orders, I saw that someone in the kitchen had carefully labeled each one in delicate cursive and added a smiley face. These small touches define the experience of eating at Sherpa Kitchen. The co-owner, Lama and Deena Sherpa, care about you as if you were in their home. But, much like eating at a friend's house, dining at the new restaurant has its culinary high and low points.

My Sherpa Kitchen experience started somewhat less than auspiciously with the *harisa* buffet. The small buffet soup offered a pile of cucumbers and carrots, with chutneys for serving, and raisin and tomato dressing on the side; bland, yellowish lentil stew called *dal*, rice, stewed, caramel cabbage, and fried chunks of chicken. The lot was pleasantly spiced but bore dry.

Fried potatoes — green-flour fritters filled with onions and carrots — were flavored with an aromatic mix of spices, but I found the overly raw vegetables made unpalatable. My favorite dish on the buffet was steamed bread called *ti momo*, or Sherpa



bread, which is unique to Sherpa Kitchen, Sherpa says the shape is his own invention. Composed of upward-facing petals, it looks like a cross between a lotus flower and a sun wheel. It's a flat eat not just for the texture but for the mild flavor that recalls the crust of a Chinese pork bun.

Our server's English was limited, but she apologized for the fewer-than-expected buffet offerings and offered everyone in my party free dessert, though we had made no complaints. It was a surprising and greatly appreciated gesture.

Tell my gang of friends ordered the *kafu*, which serves as an ice cream equivalent to the Italian zabaglione, and beyond. The dessert is always densely creamy, almost resembling cheese; in my experience, it's usually flavored with pistachio or mango. Sherpa Kitchen's version was perhaps even sturdier than usual, like a frozen brick that seemed almost impervious to melting, and its flavoring was limited to a topping of crumbled pistachios. Though not the best version of the dessert I've had, it was pleasant enough for everyone to finish.

By contrast, the *bratan* *macha* was one of the best desserts I'd eaten all year. A bubbling broth of creamy caramel sauce was topped with a liberal shower of cashew nuts. That on its own was delicious, but quartered pieces of cheese dumplings made the hot dish truly memorable. The cheesy dough was filled with equally heavy cheese that I'm guessing was generic, and the cream-on-cream combination of sauce and cheese was a startling success. Once I was done, I was ready for another bowl.

CURRY AND CHUTNEY BY ALICE

FOOD LOVER?



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SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HURSH & ALICE LEVITT

Iu,lu Love

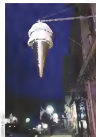
ARTISAN ICE CREAM
HITS ITS PEAK

"It's been a while to me. All we do is sleep and make ice cream," says chief **BOB MARX**. The owner of **MARY'S RESTAURANT** at THE INN AT BALDWINVILLE is talking about **AMAL**, the artisan ice cream parlor that he opened with his daughter, **MARTHA**, and wife, **LINDA MARX**, during the last week in May.

Martha Marx grew up in the kitchen at Mary's when it was still located in downtown Bristol. She earned a master's in library and information sciences, then decided she preferred the dynamic life of a restaurant to academia and returned to Bristol, where she became Mary's bar manager. Last

While the family relocated Mary's Restaurant to the inn in 1994, they held on to its original in-Main Street spot. This spring, the Marxes began remodeling the space with work by David Dugan of Murky Metals. That includes a giant metal ice cream cone suspended outside the scoop shop.

Martha Marx smiles the French-custard-style ice cream here herself with milk and cream from **MOUNTAIN FARM DAIRY** and eggs from the Inn at Baldwin. Cook's own chicken. Flavors change daily, but Marx says the always-offers four stand-out flavors and five quirkier ones, including sorbet. Of the less-quirky choices, she says her cookies-and-cream flavor has proved particularly popular. It's filled with her own homemade version of Oreo.



writer, Marx's love of infusing vodkas with flavors such as bacon started inspiring parallel experiments with desserts. At first, she flavored capsules that the paired with bitterside ice cream, but before long she realized that "it's a lot more fun to play with flavors [in ice cream], and the shelf life's better."

current recipe from **RED RICE CANDY** in Theford. Other flavors showcase the Marxes' own harvest, including local ice cream, goat ice cream and strawberry-thunderbolt soft-serve frozen berries from **LAST MIGHT FARM**. "Since we're co-founders of **VIOLETTA FARM** somewhere, we're trying to be as

A Pearl in the Rough

PEARL STREET DINER IS PEARL STREET BURLINGTON

The past year hasn't been slack time for **PAUL SCARLEN**. Last summer, she and her partner, **MICHAEL NEWMAN**, purchased the space alongside their existing business, **BAKED** 1910. Their vision for the decades-old diner and bakery — known until last summer as Doughboy's Bakery & Coffee Shop — was an affordable, accessible gathering place for locals, some of whom reside in nearby senior homes.

Last Saturday, after nearly a year, **PEARL STREET DINER** finally opened its doors. "It took about a year to get this place open," says Scarsen, pausing during a recent lull between breakfast and lunch. "So it, too, is good."

For starters, the space turned out to need major renovations. Bender braving through a wall to create a door to connect the previously separated diner and bakery, redefining the bathrooms and installing new floors, Scarsen went over each detail. She took each booth apart — and steamed out a head from



paint "worth of guak," she says. Scarsen's mother offered advice on the process, but passed away in October before she had a chance to see the remodeled diner.

Inside the now-brighter space, the kitchen opens at 6 a.m. during the week, when morning cook **MARK DRUM** (formerly of Sade Katz Deli) stokes up eggs Benedict, French toast, pancakes, omelettes — none with charcoal sausage or apples and cheddar — and the requisite eggs and bacon.

Lunchtime brings sandwiches such as a Philly cheesesteak with shaved beef, steak and gooey cheddar; a black-bean burger with lentils, open-faced hot sandwiches, and burgers and salads. A lot of it is homemade. Scarsen says, from the Mediterranean sauce to the corned-beef hash to the biscuits that come with sausage and gravy. Her kungis and dumplings' pie may soon join the lunch roster.

The diner's first month is a soft opening, a gift Scarsen, because both the space and menu are in flux. "It's pretty exciting. And we're not a bus depot," she says dryly, referring to the check-out lot just behind the diner. 85 Pearl Street on a lot of potential sites for a new Burlington transit center.

More projects await. Scarsen and crew are in the midst of renovating the adjacent Doughboy's Bakery, where they will create the never-up fresh baked goods such as pies and tarts, as well as nut cream and milkshakes. The diner is set to join with the original Diner Doughs from Sade Katz, which Scarsen scored from the former owner.

Pearl Street Diner is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Curry and Cream

Lately it wasn't long before I was back at Sherpa Kitchen for the aforementioned lunch retreat. I passed up the \$8.99 special, which offered a somewhat limiting choice of drink, appetizer and entrée, in favor of filling my three empty-bellied stomachs with a variety of dishes that showcased both Sherpa's specialties and the fusion that is Himalayan cuisine.

The most disturbing dish was a salad of baby spinach and equal numbers of beautifully roasted red beets and fresh mushroom balls, all tossed in silky, herbaceous parsley vinaigrette. The salad is Sherpa's own quirky invention - with, she admits, no basis in her husband's cuisine - but it's delicious.

While the salad transported me closer to the Italian Alps than to Mount Everest, the chicken "chili" was a real trip to China. The lustily sautéed cubes of chicken that I'd first encountered dried out on the buffet were now fried so they were crisp on the outside and juicy within. A slightly gooey red sauce dressed them, along with peppers and onions, in a zesty fire that heated well with the chicken in the chicken's coating.

The Sherpa to menu was my first choice to try the restaurant's house-made noodles. They were extremely uniform, lacking the chew and uneven sizes and shapes I expect from Himalayan hand-pulled noodles. Still, I enjoyed the dish, with its mix of carrots, cabbage, sautéed onions and fresh cilantro. The vegetables would have been the perfect vessel to soak up the soy and ginger sauce had it been evenly distributed, so it was, I could go several bowls without tasting any sauce. Things improved when I reheated the leftovers a day later. Perhaps Sherpa's menu is like soup - better the next day.

When I headed to Sherpa Kitchen for dinner, momos were on my mind. Our



Lukas Lohmeyer and Sonja Sherpa

server warned me that the wait for the dumplings would be at least 15 minutes, so I told her to bring food out so it was ready. The momos arrived in about 15 minutes, as advertised, but it would be another half hour before we saw our other dishes. Plenty of seats were occupied, but not enough to qualify the hour as a rush, so impatience and understaffing seemed the likeliest reasons for the slow service.

The momos, however, justified the wait. The thick, slippery dough held coarsely ground beef and soft chunks of onion. Unlike the ginger, garlic and clove-laced dumplings I've had in the past, these momos had a kick. Perhaps because Sherpa Kitchen's owners are Nepalese, not Tibetan, their momos feature carrots and chiles, making them more like an Indian futton than on the dish. A small, square cup of tomato sauce at the center of the plate was attractive, but its subtle flavor disappeared in the wake of the dumplings' seasoned filling.

Each plate holds 12 medium-size dumplings - which is good, because



**More food after the
classified section.** PAGE 45

Lost in Beer Space

A frenzied taste of Mondial de la Bière

BY CORIN HIRSCH

It's not quite noon, but most of us in the crowd are already sipping beer as we watch Fred Corneau lunge onto the stage, ponytail flopping against his back. The lucky brewer smiles as he accepts a gold medal for a beer called *Grig*, a hucous, spicy stout created at his Québec's *respublique* brewery.

The tipping starts early at the annual *Mondial de la Bière* in Montreal. After all, there are 600 beers to sample. Of these, only a dozen will pick up medals. Standing beside me, judge Peter Slosberg explains that the beers were judged blind, with nomenclature not to style. "So you judge thematically," notes Slosberg, who corrected (and later sold) *Beers Wicked* Ale. "Of course, the judges' biases got in the way," he concedes. "Some like sweet, some like bitter."

What does Slosberg like? "I like flavors in balance, so that nothing dominates," he says.

The judges prefer beers with bold flavors, too, or so it appears from the list of winners — including two stouts, a wheat doppelbock full of dark fruit and spice, and a honey ginger imperial ale. Inside the Place Bonaventure, tracking them down among the 170 or so pubs is daunting.

Mondial, now in its 16th year, turns five concrete hall into a cacophonous miniature city for five days, a testament of craft-pubs dispensing some of the most exquisite and unusual beers in the world. The encyclopedic list of beers is itself intimidating. So is the crowd. Some 60,000 people will wander through this hall over the next few days, most with a glass mug dangling from one hand. While many serious beer lovers consist of a weekend or more in savoring as much as they can, I have just five hours and little idea where to start.

Fortunately, I've driven up with Steve Polowczyk of Vermont Pub & Brewery, who promptly scores a lot of the award-winning beers and shares it with me. Polowczyk receives a warm welcome wherever he wanders. His good friend and former business partner — Greg Noonan, who passed away in 2009 — is legendary in the craft-beering world. Noonan's presence looms large here; *Republic*'s *Grig* is named for him, as are Mondial's award certificates, each of which is called an *Millennium Greg Noonan Award*.



Honoring Noonan in this way was a gift for Jeanne-Marie, who co-founded Mondial in 1994 and is now its president. Striking in a plastic chair on the VIP terrace, Maquis explains how she was running a graphics and communications firm two decades ago when a pair of clients asked her to study the potential success of a beer festival. After some initial research,

in perpetual motion. "Now, there are nearly a hundred!"

Though Maquis continued running her graphics arts firm until recently, Mondial eased her to retire 60 degrees in her professional life. "I fell in love with the concept, and with the people," she says. And her taste has broadened from the lighter ales she drank in her youth. "My palate is a lot bigger than that now," it was quips.

Mondial is bigger, too, with seven full-time employees and 50 booths in Steelesburg and Malabar in France, as well as in Montreal. The business is not all about craft beer — bringing alcohol into Québec can be a complex and daunting process, Maquis says, and sometimes beer gets delayed on its way to the festival, or the province's alcohol authorities fail to analyze in contents. Despite Mondial's apparent success, Maquis admits, "We really don't make lots of money."

Still, in Place Bonaventure, as brewers greet each other with hugs and beer lovers stroll happily, it's clear that Maquis and her crew facilitate their joy — and not just among Mondial attendees. When I ask at the VIP bar, it's terrible French, to try an Italian ale called *Double Merlot*, two other barbeques collaborate to open it and laugh uproariously as the cork pops into the air.

After talking with Maquis, I decide to tackle more tasting and find the award winners. I head first to the *L'Ami Pub* — where the focus is on beers from South America and Italy — to try the gold-medal-winning imperial stout.

There, a Québecois restaurant named *Gasthouse* lunch doubles as a volunteer power. He decants the stout from *Cerveja* Rodrigues, a Brazilian brewery. It's lit, dark and powerful, almost like bourbon. (And, at 14.5 percent alcohol, it's nearly as strong.)

To concentrate solely on award winners, though, would mean missing much magic, such as *Forest Beer*, an Amazonian beer brewed with a fruit of the same name. *Forest* shares a family with mangoes, and this beer is the color of faded sunshine, refreshingly light — only 3 percent alcohol — and citrusy. It's a welcome palate cleanser between the heavy-hitting stout and another Italian ale that tastes of pumpkin.

the thought it could be a go. "So you say it would be good," she recalls the clients saying. "So want to start it with us?" I said, "Why not?"

Each of the two kicked in \$15,000 for the first event, which took place at Montreal's *Place des Arts* over four hot, sunny days. "There were 10 macrobreweries in Québec at the time," says Maquis, whose initial blood beer suggests she's

I sample an incredibly round, smooth blond ale brewed by Le Chêne Blanc specifically for Mandul, with sips of banana layered overasty sour notes, then two dry sips from La Succursale, a newish Québec microbrewery and a stunning summer ale from Boquerelle, a now-to-be micro-brewery in Northvale.

Mandul's exhibitors are not just microbrewing enthusiasts, however. Nearly empty is the Coors Light booth, raised on a platform. Inside, a fluorescent television silently cycles Coors commercials, while a waterfall trickles in front of a tub filled with Coors Light T Glacé, a sort of lager-wine hybrid.

"Coors did 37 tests, and on the 35th try, they got it right!" enthuses the attendant. "It's not like anything you've ever drunk out there." Um, hrrright.

The finish of the Coors booth is in distinct contrast to the honey-cray Vermont tent, which is a nexus for visitors from the Green Mountain State. Here, a lumberjack beard lists beers from six Vermont breweries, including VtBrew and Back Art Brewery. With so little time and so many unfamiliar foreign beers to try, I don't linger long to sample local favorites.

Not surprisingly, the food stalls at Mandul are all about the beer, too. I spot a gummy kangaroo sausage from Experience Kangaroos, low for an inherent flavor that for its ability to open out the frothy notes of a Saison Tradition from Québec's Brasserie du Moule—which won its brewer, Dominic Charbonneau, a gold medal. Charbonneau is a wunderkind who began picking up awards almost as soon as he began brewing. Accepting yet another honor earlier that morning, he said, "I have beer in my blood."

I tried a sip of Rogue Ale's Hucklebrot Nectar (smolder gold medalist) from Polarisville, then head to the microbrewers' Dées du Ciel, where a few guys linger densely over their pints at the bar draped in black fabric.

The pub's platinum-wedding-rolling Scotch ale, Égérie du Printemps, isn't

on hand, but other treasures await, such as the Herbe à Délice, a spicy, orange-tanged beer that brewer Stéphane Gosselin brews with Citra hops.

The man next to me is brooding over a dark, herbaceous beer named Usung, Gosselin brews it with several mushrooms, which he adds at the end of the boil. "We love mushrooms, and I wanted to bring that note into beer," Gosselin says. A dark beer has the body to support the savory notes, he adds. Its flavor resides somewhere between stout and forest floor.

Gosselin says Mandul is a "perfect occasion" to try beers from other provinces and countries, many of which can be hard to get in Québec. "Many of these are beers we don't have access to," he says. "The liquor board is run by bureaucrats."

Like almost everyone else, Gosselin cites Nocturne as an inspiration when he launched Dées du Ciel—one of the first microbreweries in Québec. "Ging is a very dear to our hearts," he says.

Higdonville's Fred Cormier also credits Nocturne, not only as the inspiration for his award-winning beer but for trying new styles. "He was the guy who created the black IPA," says Cormier. "Ging is still a big part of the beer industry."

As for his own approach, Cormier says it can be both ingenious—"I take my time and let the beer age when it is ready"—and unconsistently anticipatory of coming trends. "I've always done styles of beer that others aren't doing, like saisons. I'm not an laggard beer for me," he adds. "I'm making beer for myself."

What's next for Cormier? "Low-gravity beers," he says without hesitation, referring to beer with low alcohol content.

Greg, however, is no such beer, at 7 percent alcohol, it's robust and cozy-like. I take only a sip or two before gathering my things to leave. Driving home, I'm already counting the days until Québec's great outdoor beer festival, La Fête des Sèves et Soudes in Chertsey, coming up in September. ☐

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The Burlington Code Enforcement office will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 5 p.m. in the main conference room at 645 Pine Street.

The public meeting will be to discuss the proposed adoption of regulatory protocols for the Burlington Minimum Housing Code related to smoke detector CO requirements in mixed use properties and 3rd floor egress requirements.

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calendar

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community

WINTER MEETING Fun (and) participatory play where kids & teens play games in outdoor play environments. Spark Arts. Burlington, 5-10 p.m. 20 suggested donation. Info: 773-4933.

community

OPEN HOUSE MEETING Neighbors keep tabs on the gallery's latest happenings. 607A. Gallery-Herndon, N.Y., 8 p.m. Free. Info: 518-754-5372.

SHREVEPORT HOAC-COMMERCE STUDY PUBLIC MEETING A presentation and discussion forum on the final findings of individual transportation study of the economic development. South Burlington City Offices, 7 B. 300 p.m. Free. Info: 855-7154.

THEOLOGICAL STUDY IN THE STONY BROOK Some sermons share their experiences and help you on an and history for their town. Maple Free Library, Newline, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Info: 303-6832.

crafts

KNITTING Daily meetups for knitters, 10 a.m. show their talents and company as they spin yarn. Phoenix Books, Essex, 8-9 p.m. Free. Info: 932-775.

HAIR STYLING Defunct hair salon public become works of art and jewelry that will be sold for the benefit of the cause. The Royal Vermont Hair Salon, Burlington, 6-9 p.m. Free. Info: 254-3637.

entertainment

CO-OP BURLINGTON Co-op members look for a local food, water program and sign up for free soil water measurements of their home or business. City of Burlington, 5-7 p.m. Free. Info: 254-4262.

info.

LISTENING SESSION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM Participants offer opinions on potential benefits of the new health care reform. Vermonters' Association for Health Care Reform, 10 a.m. Free. Info: 254-4262.

U.S. ARMY RECRUITING Photos here about military life and serving their country. Church Street Veterans Association, Burlington, 8-9 p.m. Free. Info: 862-4333.

arts & festivals

WINDMILL CENTER OF THE ARTS The gallery exhibits the many cultures with a new theme. Windmill Center of the Arts, 1000 Main St., Burlington, 10-11 p.m. Free. Info: 485-5552.

film

W.D. EXPLOSIVE EVIDENCE - EXPERTS SPEAK OUT Director and producer Richard Dreyfuss tells us this powerful new documentary on which 32 whistleblowing experts present evidence of corporate malfeasance at the World Trade Center. 10-11 p.m. 3-10 p.m. Info: 333-4245. Community, 10-11 p.m. Info: 333-4245. Info: 333-4245.

TRADITION AND THE BUILT An angry beast turns out to be the human of heart. In the heart of the heart. 10-11 p.m. Info: 333-4245. Info: 333-4245. Info: 333-4245.

food & drink

BARRE BARRE MARKET Crafts, breads and more. Open a few months in the heart of the heart. 10-11 p.m. Info: 333-4245. Info: 333-4245. Info: 333-4245.

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CO-OP BURLINGTON Co-op members look for a local food, water program and sign up for free soil water measurements of their home or business. City of Burlington, 5-7 p.m. Free. Info: 254-4262.

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health & fitness

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JUN.14 & 15 | DANCE The Bare Truth

If John Jasper's *Art Museum* (reviewed) were performed in a truly epic theater, one can imagine tonight's "Live male male" - the experimental New York City choreographer's bold work does require a good bit of acting - a pair of male dancers, one of whom each other around to nothing but their bodies. But this striking avant-garde dance has brains and brawn. Anticipating clothed females will be shocked males, this piece of opposite challenges viewers to consider the human body from the standpoint of both owners and voyeurs - and does this not look any



Photo: David Laundy

JOHN JASPER COMPANY

Thursday, June 14 through Friday, June 15, 10 p.m. at Pyramid in Burlington. 20-25 not recommended for children. Info: 553-5456. Pyramid.org

JUN.15-17 | FAIRS & FESTIVALS Up, Up and Away

It's a bird... It's a plane... No, it's the third annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon Craft and Music Festival. Twenty massive cars defy gravity at this sky-high fair, and festival-goers can enjoy a view from the top by purchasing a spot in the basket. (These are reduced rates for the event, too.) Don't care to go up? Activities on the ground will fill your spirit: live music - there's a rock band, physical comedy, dare-crashing dogs, a beer and wine garden, and a craft fair featuring more than 40 vendors. Friday evening's balloon glow guarantees a bright start.



Photo: David Laundy

QUECHEE HOT AIR BALLOON CRAFT & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, June 15, 3 p.m. - Saturday, June 16, and Sunday, June 17, 10 a.m. at the Quechee Inn at Harland Farm, 55-100 general admission (free for kids under 18). 553-5456. Info: 553-5456. Info: 553-5456. Info: 553-5456.

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Here Comes the Sun

Photo: Justin Gaudin



JUN.15 | MUSIC

Michael Franks is like a harbinger of the season — wherever he goes, summer follows. While the musician's been known to dabble in everything from punk to rap to hip-hop, the songs on his latest effort — aptly named *The Sound of Sunshine* — are buoyant and spiritually affirming. As *American Songwriter* put it, "He takes his uptight, reggae-fingered jams and songs to a particularly gleaming state, making poets like Jack Johnson and Xosha Radd seem like mopey goths in comparison." So "Say Hey (I Love You)" when he sets stage at the Champlain Valley Expo with his band Sparshand in two weeks of Valley open.

MICHAEL FRANKS AND SPARSHAND
Friday, June 15 7 p.m. at Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, \$30-40; free for children 12 and under. Info: 652-0177
righttimeinmusic.com

JUN.16 & 17 | FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

History is on parade at the annual Vermont History Expo — and that's no figure of speech. Each day at 1 p.m., a life-and-drum corps leads an old-fashioned procession of military reenactors, waving watercolors and farm animals through the fairgrounds, which resembles a scene straight out of the 19th century. Focused on Vermont during the Civil War era, this country for kids like a walk back in time, where kids play nearby fields, soldiers set up camp and children play on wooden forts. So turn back the clock and share up for the good old days of yore — you don't get many chances to relive the past.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO

Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Tundridge Fairgrounds. \$8-10; good for both days. Free for ages 3 and under. Half-price for seniors in period dress. \$20 family pass. Info: 476-6232, vermonthistoryexpo.org



Photo: Vermont Historical Society

EXPOSITION: DAVE COOK

BOY: JEFFREY HARRIS

GIRL: DANA

CHILD: JEFFREY HARRIS

theater

LONG HAIR, YOU'RE PERFECT HOW CHANGE? Levi Mack on Theater's cast of four portrays the many stages of hair in an integrated musical comedy. **Madagascar City Hall Auditorium** 7 p.m. \$20-\$32. Info: 238-0132

sounds

KNOWING SPLETTERS WITH MARK UTTER Several days of sordid and somewhat risqué a heart's story before utter — a feminist — with auto — a types his thoughts and the reading via live broadcast communication on Facebook. **Madagascar City Hall Auditorium** 7 p.m. Info: 238-0132

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES: EARTH TONES Thomas Mervin, The Devil, Mark explores how to live sustainably with nature. **Putnam Community Library** 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

OPEN STAGE/POETRY NIGHT Readers, writers, poets and performers join up in a collaborative and go-live performance. **Putnam Community Library** 8 p.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

SARAH REPLY The Newton author of *Close to Get an Answer* has from her debut novel *Losers* got the first of her *Jeep* to come. **Putnam Community Library** 7 p.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

FRI.15

dance

BALLROOM DESIGN & DANCE SOCIAL Singles and couples of all levels of experience take a brief *Jeep* to come. **Putnam Community Library** 7 p.m. Info: 849-2420

JOHN JASPER COMPANY See THU 14, 7:30 p.m.

environment

CO-OP SOLAR FINANCING See WED 13, part of the Free Carbon Footprint, **Putnam Community Library** 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

events

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY TOURS Visit sites up to the 10th anniversary of 9/11 that make today's living community bonds. **Putnam Community Library** 10-11 a.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

WILD HORSE & BURRO ADPTION The Bureau of Land Management offers 10 horses and burros to 10-year-old children in order to control herd sizes in the wild. The animals can be purchased for \$100. **Putnam Community Library** 10-11 a.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

FAIR & FESTIVALS The Bureau of Land Management offers 10 horses and burros to 10-year-old children in order to control herd sizes in the wild. The animals can be purchased for \$100. **Putnam Community Library** 10-11 a.m. Free. Info: 849-2420

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film

INDUSTRIAL The film is a satire about the many who make the world a better place for the future. **Putnam Community Library** 7 p.m. Info: 849-2420

WHITNEY JOHNSON The film is a satire about the many who make the world a better place for the future. **Putnam Community Library** 7 p.m. Info: 849-2420

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Burlington, 10 a.m.-noon, \$10-40; prepay at info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

ART

OUTRAGE ART SAMPLER Double the fun after their first playful and informal art lesson in an evening. Class Station Gallery Inc. brings, 10 a.m.-noon, \$24, info: 438-7792

BOATS

REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET Community members gather at an after-school session at one shopping at a bazaar of clothing, food, books, furniture, plant materials, and more. Trinity Park, Portland, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 4 p.m.-noon, info: 338-2434-0444; info@trinitypark.org

DANCE

CAPITAL CITY CONTRA DANCE Folks in soft, called shoes practice their stepping, sliding by left hand and Latin by right hands. Capital City Contra Dance Workshop 8 p.m., info: 446-8882

ENTERTAINMENT

ITALIA PROJECT PHIBING DANCE CLEAN-UP Volunteers will be given a great pick-up job and a chance to socialize with the staff of the cleaning of your peninsula. Inverness, Squaw Lake State Park, Deer Harbor, 10 a.m.-noon, info: 938-7596; 343.3, bettercontact@gmail.com

ETH.

ETHIO AND

PUPPET MUSIEM

OPEN HOUSE

Live music and puppetry at the Southbury Play Company presents a puppet performance. Street and Puppet Theater, Elver, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission accepted, info: 578-3550

ETHIO-ITALY 25th ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION Two days and a full week of special events fill the last weekend of The Gateway to the Green Mountains. See brochure 282 card for schedule. Various locations, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds, info: 434-7575

EURO-SOUTH MUSIC, JAZZ & BLUEGRASS

The Ward Brothers, Nellya Bland and other local musicians perform at a special benefit concert in the Southbury Play Company's new building. The Ball at Long Farm, 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., 12 p.m.-5:30 p.m., info: 216-820

ETHIO-ITALY MEETING

Consistent events such as Bank of America and the Vermont State Fair, 10 a.m.-noon, \$10-40; prepay at info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

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fair & festivals

ROCKY RIDGE One of the most beautiful and scenic areas in the state. Rocky Ridge is a beautiful area with rolling hills, scenic views, and a variety of recreational activities. Info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

DURHAM HOT AIR BALLOON CRAFT & MUSIC

FESTIVAL The Hot Air Balloon Festival is a celebration of the art and science of ballooning. It features a variety of hot air balloons, music, and other activities. Info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

Film

THE LOST BOY A film about a young boy who is kidnapped by a demon. It is a horror film. Info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

Food & Drink

GRASS-GRAZING FESTIVAL More than 20 regional craft brewers try their wares. Info: 434-3223; info@burlingtonfestival.org

Music

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calendar

Sun 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

4 a.m. - 10 p.m. 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. June only. Info: 219-354-7347

etc.

LEAD INCLUDE BYE YOUR COMMUNICATING THE FAIR, CELEBRATING THE PLACE. See SAT 7:10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD INTERNATIONAL LEMBUKACE COMPETITION. Awarded no chance in the fall, offering shopping and many local businesses. Bunka Mountain Club, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Info: 354-7347 and under info, 354-1350

fun & festivals

DELICIOUS HOT AND BANGALOO CRAFT & MUSIC FESTIVAL. See FRI 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY EURO. See SAT 7:10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

food & drink

CHICKEN BARBECUE. Every day the grill! The South Central (South) chicken is a legend. 10000 South Central (South) Chicken Barbecue. Info: 354-7347

PLANNED GROUND FOOD & FARM COOPERATIVE MARKET DAY. The co-op's first market is held on the first day of the month, a great morning on South Central (South) Chicken Barbecue. Info: 354-7347

ICE CREAM SUNDAYS. Info: 354-7347

STONE HUNTERS MARKET. Preview, produce and other products from local food. Info: 354-7347

THE FINEST THING EVER. On a tour of the stone, a great morning on South Central (South) Chicken Barbecue. Info: 354-7347

WISCONSIN FARMERS MARKET. Info: 354-7347

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Huntley, 3 p.m. Info: 354-7347

REUNION. Info: 354-7347

ART AFTERNOON OF JAZZ. Info: 354-7347

CLUBBING. Info: 354-7347

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Justin Rowe
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Josie Leavitt

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lucytimmek, 29



justinalbano, 29

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BCA offers a variety of exciting summer art camps for ages 3-14 in downtown Burlington from June 10-August 1. The largest selection of art camps in the region. Choose full or half day camps - choose subjects are available. All camps are online and available in Burlington City Arts.

CLAY WHEEL THROWING Jul. 10-Aug. 10, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Weekly on Thurs. Cost: \$100/person. 100% materials. Location: BCA Center Burlington. 800-788-1788. This camp is for ages 10-14. Students will learn to use a pottery wheel and create a variety of pottery. Students will learn to use a pottery wheel and create a variety of pottery. Students will learn to use a pottery wheel and create a variety of pottery.

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building

TRY HOME BUILDING
Learner: Home Building (Hillside)
Schedule: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Home Building offers a variety of building classes for all ages. Students will learn to use a power saw and create a variety of building projects. Students will learn to use a power saw and create a variety of building projects.



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TELLING [TRUE] STORIES

The art of storytelling is forever changed, and changing still. Join Emily Bell, Director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at the Columbia Journalism School for a unique exploration of the state of the art, with Antebellum's Ben Archer, Ann Corbett of Chalked, and Dante's Soden from Fiat.

PLAY FOR LIFE

Serious Games are games that deal with important real-world issues. From health care games to educational games, from games that teach tolerance to games that help promote strategic chronic disease, serious games address social problems in novel, powerful, and fun situations throughout. Triafora Lab at Dartmouth, the Interactive Media Center at Dartmouth College, and Play4Life of NYC, please join us about their recent work.

DIGITAL VERMONT

Cathy Brewer, Online Editor and Associate Publisher at Seven Days leads a demonstration session with some of Vermont's most interesting independent digital developers at The Digital Vermont Invitational Showcase.

ISSUES IN DIGITAL MEDIA ART

Visual artists, media creators, and critics gather to talk and answer questions about the digital media art scene.

UNDER THE TENT AT THE FESTIVAL

The big tent on the Village Green will serve as the hub of the festival on Saturday, with demonstrations, talks, demos, and live art.

Make the tent your first stop to pick up the latest schedule information and to join in a range of informal activities throughout the day.

EXPLORATIONS

Learn how to build the new and innovative around today's tools. ADAM, with authors Jason Gelfand and Mike Cook, then help us jump Woodstock's accessibility.

Guests: Mountain Digital and the Vermont Center for Eco-Studies lead a Digital Bird Walk. Learn about the Audubon Birds app and then use it with the experts.

Special Appearance by James Cameron from: Book of Bedding Adventures IV

FESTIVAL SATURDAY NIGHT

The festival's signature event starts at 8 pm at the Billings House Museum. Hearing then talks by Scott Kraus, Vice President for Research at the New England Aquarium, Barbara London, Media Curator at the Museum of Modern Art, Marc Ruppert, Chief Creative Officer and Co-founder at Play4Life, Tia Johnson, Executive Editor at Art Day, Day, then video and digital responses will follow.

MICRO

A collection of works by digital artists inspired by personal and interpreting the diverse "micro" world.



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PARTNERS



music



Crash Course

These United States' Jesse Elliott talks songwriting and accidents

BY DAN COLLIS

WHEN THESE United States' Bassman Jesse Elliott got the story on the band's new self-titled record, we assumed word that about the album's themes. Then, while we were on the phone, Elliott expressed a minor car accident. Weird, right?

It turned out to be an illustrative coincidence: The all-country band's fifth album is filled with stories about, as Elliott puts it, "people and places and all the wacky shit that makes up life in [and] the se United States." Talk about a happy accident. Well, for us anyway.

Here's our conversation in advance of TUS' upcoming show at the Monkey House in Wednesday, June 20.

SEVEN DAYS: How's it going?
JESSE ELLIOTT: I'm good. There's usually some load of strange content, overlap here, because I'm driving to go see a band that I haven't seen in about 10 years that's from Washington, W.

SD: No kidding? Which band might that be?
JE: They're called Phads. Have you heard of those guys?

SD: Believe it or not, I have. So are you a Phadhead?
JE: I was a pretty big fan back in the day. But I went on a different musical path for a long time. I gave them a lot of credit for introducing me to a lot of other stuff and turning me to a lot of different directions and genres. I guess they're a gateway band or something. They also just seem to be all about the right shit.

SD: I'd agree with that. I mean, Mike Gordon drops in on this local honky-tonk night all the time. It's a tiny little cafe called Koolha Beer.
JE: I've been to that place! The last time we played the Monkey House, someone brought us there after the show. It was the end of the night, but the end of the night kept on occurring.

SD: That's a good night.
JE: It was amazing!

SD: Let's talk about your music. The new record is

supposedly a concept album. So what's the concept?
JE: The whole idea of a concept album is fuzzy to me, because if you're making an album, it seems like there has to be some kind of concept behind it. If there's not some kind of idea or musical motif that ties everything together, you might as well just put out a single or an EP. So, to me, it just seems natural that that's what the album format is for: an idea you want to unfold over the course of 12 or 13 songs.

This album is a self-aid, and we were originally going to call it *Mops*, which is one of the songs. But the whole thing is just about people and places and all the wacky shit that happens in our little American corner of the universe. So in a certain poem, *Mops* seemed kind of redundant as a title. If it was just about these United States, let's just make that the... Oh, yes! A big truck just hit a little truck!

SD: What is everyone OK?
JE: Yeah. It was a slow-motion thing, but it was a little surprised by it.

SD: That's an interview first for me.
JE: Me, too. But when you spend enough time on the road, you're bound to see some shit.
SD: And then write about it.
JE: Exactly.

SD: Speaking of the name,

do you ever run into any preconceptions about the band because of it?

JE: All the time. More than I would have guessed. If I had known how much time people were going to spend thinking about our name, I might have chosen a different one. Some people take it as a patriotic thing. Some people take it as an acronymic thing. Some people think we're a country music band. We're probably just a country band with some kind of wings, but I don't know where they fit.

SD: You're the primary songwriter, but you take a lot of input from the rest of the band on your lyrics.

JE: I do, mostly because there are 14 of them and they'll take care of each other and maybe they'll learn some valuable lesson from the cosmic accident.

SD: Yeah. Stay the fuck off the stove.

JE: Right. I guess for me it's really crucial to put everything you can into each song, but also to be detached about it. There's no way anyone else on the scenario could possibly care about it as much as you do. And that's OK, in the sense

that if you can detach yourself from it, it becomes a healthier creative process when you work with other people and have their opinions. I like a good, creative, here-there's-a-light.

SD: What's your current favorite record?

JE: Oh, I'll be honest with you. We just found out we're going to open for Willie Nelson in a couple of weeks. So I'm going back through my archive Willie collection and marveling at what a scary, beautiful, handsome songwriter he is. My grandfather passed away a couple of months ago, and I was really close to him. I had the task of putting her whole estate collection together. And one of the things I found was this amazing old vinyl of Stardust. So I've been listening to that a lot for the last couple of weeks.

SD: I was afraid you were going to say his reggae record and I was going to have to hang up.

JE: [Laughs] I don't know that one, to be honest. I do know the new single that he released with Doug Derry and Kris Kristofferson. It's called "Be It Me Up and Scratch Me When I Die." Do you know that one?

SD: Holy crap. No. JE: You should look it up. It says "down's" up. I guess the sort of concept. So it's a pretty amazing thing to behold. D

soundbites BY DAN BELLES

Post-Bop Mortem

Well, I'm wiped out — and clearly out of jazz pants. Who knew jazz could be so exhausting?

Another Burlington Discover Jazz Festival is in the books, and with it go fond memories of flirty, late-spring evenings spent in various nightspots around town, soaking it — and Long Trail's Jazz Fest beer — all in. And I gotta say, this year was tremendous. Though lacking an iconic jazz name — there was no Ornette Coleman, Scotty Kirkham or Chuck Cannon this year — the program offered a wide array of music, jazz and otherwise. Here are some personal highlights.

THEODORE SWIFT was as electrifying as advertised. He held the Waterfront Tent crowd in the palm of his hand all night. His take on **DAVE NAVARRO THE MACHINE's** "Rolling in the Deep" — yes, you read that correctly — was badass. And his circular-breath thing demonstrated near the close of his set was something. He sustained a single note for what seemed like 10 minutes — I wasn't behind — while the band swapped behind him, before exploding into a fiery "Sugarfooted" finale.

The 11-member **ALL HARBORING SOULS**, led by **DAVE NAVARRO** and featuring several members of hip-hop acts **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**, played what may have been my favorite set of the week. Most's compositions were gorgeous, moody and complex, making fine use of the downtown brass section — which included the cornet-blessed saxophonist **ANTHONY MCNEELY**. Top Grade rocked, too.

It was fun to catch **JAMIE WARD** at the Waterfront Tent on Saturday. Having grown up on ska, reggae and rocksteady, he's near and dear to this critic's heart. At 60, CWB still knows his way around classic island groove and is a tremendous vocalist. And, really, you can't beat a sunny evening concert on the waterfront.

Just because the 2002 BJDF didn't feature many iconic jazz names doesn't mean it was less of a jazz festival. Sogethrop **ALAN RIMMEL**, who helped deliver **MULTI DAVE's** landmark *Bird of the Cool* and performed with numerous



July 2009

other jazz greats throughout his 60-year career, certainly qualifies. His festival-closing set at the Flynnplace on Sunday, though brief, was a fine cap. Rimmel and his band were playful and elegant — if a little obscure at times — shifting moods and tones with serene ease and accomplishing my jazz-addled brain just enough.

So congrats once again to the fine folks at the BJDF. It continues to assure me that a town this size can support and embrace a festival of that scale year in and year out. We're awfully lucky, thanks, guys.

Homeward Bound

DAVE DUFFE landed in Burlington from Ghana five years ago, carrying a visa that allows foreign artists with unique skills entrance into the United States. Duffe was a member of the local African dance troupe **ADJOUA** and taught African drumming and workshops at schools around the state. He also founded **WOMANABA**, a local band that fused American sounds with West African rhythms and included members of **KABALA** and **JAMIE WARD**, two bands with whom he frequently performed. In short, Duffe had become something of a fixture in Burlington's increasingly diverse world-music community. And that, apparently, was a problem.

In November, Duffe returned home to Ghana to visit family — his children still live there. When he tried to reenter the U.S., his visa was denied. The State Department decided Duffe's ties to Burlington had become too strong and that he was a risk not to return

to Ghana. (You read that part about his kids still living there, right? Just checking. He also owns a house there. Seems to me like a guy who intends to go home at some point. But maybe that's why I don't work for Homeland Security.)

As of this writing, Duffe is still in immigration limbo. He is planning to appeal the decision and hopes to return to Vermont. In the meantime, he remains in Ghana.

This Thursday, June 18, his state-side music pals, Josh Kule and Benka, are throwing a fundraiser at Club Monocrome in Burlington. Fighting the odds is expensive work, so proceeds will go to help offset what may well be significant legal costs.

BiteTorrent

It's the end of an era at Vermont Public Radio. Longtime jazz host **DAVID THOMPSON** announced his retirement on air last week. Thompson had been at VPR for almost 11 years and was a fountain of jazz information. His BJDF previews in particular had become required listening for jazz study over the years. Thanks for a great run, George.

DAVE BATTEN officially releases their debut LP, *Love, Jerry*, with a show at Radio Room this Friday, June 18. The album has technically been out for several months, but since not all of the band members live in Vermont full time — besides **KEVIN MCNEELY** (GANE ARE) winters in Asheville now — they haven't had a chance to properly catch the

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For more Soundbites info, visit our website, or email Dan Belle at dan@soundbites.com. Our blog on Soundbites is www.soundbites.com/blog.

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63

new record, which breaks' rocks, by the way. Also on the bill is local art-rock royalty **SMUG**. That band has been promoting a new record since the Bush administration, yet still we're waiting. I'm happy to report that the wait will soon be over. The record drops with a release show at the *lean on september* 28, 10 years to the day after the band's debut *gig*. Serendipity.

The next generation of local comics graduates onto the real world this week, when students from the *Spark Arts Level 2* standup-comedy class give their final observations — 10-minute routines — at the *Up & Comer's Comedy Showcase* at the *Monday House* on Monday, June 18. Performers include **CONRADWELLS**, **BARBARA COOPER**, **JOAN COOPER**, **EDDIE**, **TIM TROTTER-HALL**, **NECKHART TON** and **TIMMY HILLIER**.

From year to year, you never really know what's going on with the Vermont Reggae Festival. Is it on? Is it off? Is it the same thing as that other reggae festival that used to be the VTRF but really wasn't? Am I already bright? It's confusing, and this year is no exception. In a press release last week, festival organizers announced that this year's VTRF is happening on Rochester — New Hampshire. That's right, the Vermont Reggae Festival is not actually happening in Vermont. In fact, it's happening closer to Maine than to the Green Mountains. Dubbed the *Rostron* of Stars — it's "promoted" by the VTRF



— the fest will take place on August 12 and 13 and feature **MAHOG**, **NOY BANAN PLANT**, **OSCAR DELMONTE** and Vermont's own **LANDSHARK**, among several other acts of regional and national renown. And also, it's in New Hampshire.

This Saturday, June 16, Borge Canal Market on Pine Street is hosting a great listening party — Jeremy Smith and Adele Lawrence bought it from previous owner Norbert Sander of *Speaking Volumes* last March — and, to do it up proper, Smith and Lawrence have enlisted the aid of six local party planners/EDM collective **NOISYPARTY**. Scheduled to appear are newcomers **TIMMY ALEXANDER**, **FRANCESCA BLANCHARD**

and **SMITH PRIMO**, as well as indie outfit **WELLS SHARK**. In between sets, the **NOISYPARTY** **SHARK** crew will spin all the down-tempo jazz you can handle. Oh, and the afternoon dancing is free.

Last but not least, from the Dept. of Corrections: Last week's column blarney about **YOUNG** being a man and VT expat **NOAH BRANTEN** contained a major goof. In it, I wrote that the closest TV would be coming to VT would be the *Newport Folk Festival*. I lied. They'll actually be in Montreal at La Tulipe on July 31. ☹



Photo by Dan Riden

Photo by Dan Riden

COMMUTERS

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TUE. 10/15/02

HONEY HONEY (Holt, Townsend, Ryan) (Holt, J.A. Chicago) (a n g e r s a n g e r b e t t) 8:30 p.m. 53

HONEY'S OLD-FASHION TAVERN (Open Mic) 8 p.m. Free

MELTIN' T (First Justice Records) (Lewell Thompson, DJ) (Holt/Thompson) (a n g e r s a n g e r b e t t) 8:30 p.m. 53

ON TAP BAR & GRILL (Trio with Top Hat Entertainment) (Trio) (Free)

RADY RADY (Duo) (Dunne) (a n g e r s a n g e r b e t t) 8 p.m. Free

THE STRAIGHT SHOTS (Duo) (a n g e r s a n g e r b e t t) 8:30 p.m. Free

MOJO GRABBY (Duo) (Holt/Thompson) (a n g e r s a n g e r b e t t) 8:30 p.m. Free

MOJO GRABBY BLUE GRABBY (DJ) (Holt/Thompson) (Trio) (Free)

T BONES RESTAURANT AND BAR (Trio with Hooters) (Hooters) (Trio) (Free)

central

BACK TO VERMONT PUB (John) (Holt) (Trio) (Holt) (Holt) (Trio) (Free)

CHAMBLE OTS (Kamala) (Trio) (Free)

champaign valley

TWO BROTHERS TOWN (Trio) (Holt) (Trio) (Holt) (Holt) (Trio) (Free)

northern

BEY LEMER (Trio) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

THE HUB PICKERIN' & PUN (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

MOJO'S (Trio) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

WED. 20

burlington area

LA LOUVER (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

BREAKFAST BAR (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

CLAY HITS HONEY (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

FRANKY & D (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

MOJO'S (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

MOJO'S (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)



TUE. 10/15/02 (EXPERIMENTAL)

Holt/Thompson (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

HARTMAN PICKERIN' PUB (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

HONEY HONEY (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

HONEY'S OLD-FASHION TAVERN (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Holt) (Free)

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Drum Machine

On the surface, **DRUM FOREVER**'s drum-centric, repetitious dance appears to be an exercise in monotony. But these hypnotic, single-stroke drummers tell the listener not to analyze, but to feel. The band's music is a shifting web of noise, as fluid as they are expressive. This Sunday, June 15, the band plays the Monkey House in Winooski with support from locals **MOJO'S** and **DRUM**.

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McBride
is en route!



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Tour date

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Retrospective Reflections

Carol MacDonald at VCAM/RETN

BY AMY RAHM

On a sunny day in June, Carol MacDonald stands beside a glass counter-top smothered with gem-colored swaths of colorful ink. At 55, she is tall and slim, with piercing sea-green eyes and cropped, silvery hair. As she talks, MacDonald wipes two bright blots of cobalt-blue ink from her arm with a laugh. In the lofty confines of her studio, hundreds of her artworks cover the walls almost edge to edge, evidence of her years of dedicated work, consummate skill and singular vision at the printing press.

This month, MacDonald's 40-year retrospective exhibition, "The Thread," opens at the Vermont Community Access Media (VCAM) and neighboring Regional Education of Technology Network (RETN) space of Flynn Avenue. The show, which includes some 92 pieces from MacDonald's public career, matures with skill and intelligence as it demonstrates the development of her oeuvre over the years. "Looking back, it's interesting for me to see that I've been making viable work for 40 years," she says. "The ideas just stand up."

"There is a way that it all links together in terms of my life and work," MacDonald continues. "It really has been an organic with the path of my journey to date."

Some of the earliest works in the show are from MacDonald's "Portrait" series from the late 1970s. In those works, she struggled to define herself as an artist. "In 1976 I was 23 I was trying to figure out who I was in the world," she remembers. In several works from the "Portrait" series, dotted, dense, interior scenes surround outlined, faceless figures, voids against the sanctimony of the surrounding space. "I've always felt that the minute there's a person or figure in a piece, it becomes



not just the beauty of the humanity on the face."

The artist's works from this period rethink the primitive tumble of toys over the carpet, the typical averaging of sleek clothes on the line and colorful stacks of laundry.

the wake of 9/11, MacDonald's works featured birds as cooperative creators that pack a bejumbling thread together and bring it to the next. Even as the birds' absence, nests are pictured as evidence of their constructive ethos.

In "Seeds of Hope I" from 2005, a fiery red nest against two halves of a torn

LOOKING BACK, IT'S INTERESTING FOR ME TO SEE THAT I'VE BEEN MAKING VIABLE WORK FOR 40 YEARS.

CAROL MACDONALD



sheet of paper, the separation widening to a yawning gap at the top. Delicate white thread stitches the two halves together, seeming to repair the split. Swallows lift into the air from the nest, floating upward and across the divide. "Sewing, for me, is about repairing things, about bringing things that are apart together," MacDonald explains.

Her knitting works from the past few years are among the artist's most subtle and intricate. They are masterpieces of gestural drawing that extend the metaphorical thread held at the heads of the birds. The knit pieces seem free in style, and more joyful.

In MacDonald's most recent works, "the thread" becomes strong. The artist began playing cello in 2006 and is fascinated with what she calls the "texture" of that instrument's music. Her colleagues seem a fertile beginning as she explores how to visually express sonic textures.

MacDonald's aptly named retrospective, "The Thread," reveals the rich fabric her intertwining works of over four decades a material synthesis of a personal, spiritual and political journey made distinctively visible to the outside world. "So much of the influence of my work is really looking first at what's going on here," MacDonald says with her hand on her heart. "and how do I speak about that?"

the focus," MacDonald explains. "I was interested in how to do a portrait differently by defining the person by the space around her."

The series considers with the artist's early years in Vermont, soon after she relocated from Bedford, NY, in the mid-'70s.

MacDonald's fascination with the space and takes on of domesticity became more pronounced in the following decade, as she worked at her studio while raising small children. MacDonald, who was a strong proponent of women's equality in the arts, remembers the closeness between her activism and her life at home.

"One of the things I noticed about the women's movement at that time was a real designation of housework," she says. "You just weren't supposed to do it, but then, who was going to do it? So I thought, if I had to do all this repetitive housework, why not celebrate it? Why

MacDonald's "Kincoons" series from the 1990s led her to come to terms with early sexual trauma. Of that series she writes, "Learning to trust my intuition and work from an internal, feeling source. I developed images of women, cocoons, nests and grapples, looking for the wholeness that embraces both the light and the dark."

In the early 2000s, MacDonald turned to themes of community action, healing and communication, using the imagery of birds and nests to consider the interrelatedness of individual lives. She writes that birds "live both on the land and in the sky." She sees a likeness with them, as her works connect the often-separate spheres of her inner spiritual life and her public activism. In

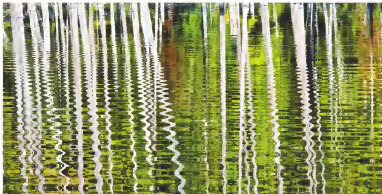


ILLUSTRATION: ANITA SHAW/ARTIST

RAHEL ECKHART "Secrets, Lies" large abstract paintings inspired by American crime and culture myths. **CARIE ELLIOTT** "Super Heroic: Baby Parks" pop-art inspired oil paintings depicting a series of portraits for their study party. Through June 25 at *Blue Center for Burlington*. Info: 783-7748.

SHARON FORD "Developing Imagery City Centers" Through July 2 at *Peri Gallery* in Burlington. Info: 857-1870.

"THESE COME TO THE SUN" Watercolors by Amelia H. Harkness, plus work by a variety of Vermont artists, in the series of summer group shows. Through July 10 at *Burlington Countywide Gallery* in Burlington. Info: 249-3946.

JOHN KOFFEL "Spiral" oil paintings of Manhattan motifs in contrasting historical buildings and modern interiors. Through June 30 at *North Vermont Art* in Burlington. Info: 862-4170.

JOE JONES Large figurative drawings, anatomical sketches and prints. **THE ARTIST COLLABORATIVE** Work by 10 SouthPeak Vermont artists, school art teachers. Through June 30 at *SEAJOE* art in Burlington. Info: 854-8292.

JOHN KELLY Works by the South Burlington artist. Through June 30 at *East Gallery* in Burlington. Info: 399-1428.

KIMBERLY KIMBLE Art dealer by Cooper presents paintings by the Vermont artist. Through June 29 at *Michael Chaisson* in South/Fair Haven. Info: 864-7871.

LEAH VAN NEE "Told Carver/Rose" Vermont landscape paintings. Through July 14 at *Uncollected Studio* in Burlington. Info: 250-4737.

LIVANOWSKI "Obscure Celestia" acrylic paintings. Through July 2 at *Helenopolis Gallery* in Burlington. City Hall. Info: 862-7898.

MARSHALL MANN "Conceptual art, oil paintings and poetry by Roy Bennett artist." Through August 24 at *Flower Street* in Burlington. Info: 859-8230.

Carl Rubino

When Carl Rubino was a toddler, his mother would nurse on classical music and tell him that if he closed his eyes, he could see the music. As he did, and he could. That sense of spontaneous music with Rubino and has continued to inform his photographic work. In "Reflections of a Dream State" at Erickson Gallery in Burlington, Rubino's photographs of the natural world range from digitally-distorted to abstract and dreamlike, often incorporating the changing reflections on a pond rippled by wind or a beaver's wake. "In short," he writes in his artist statement, "I seek to capture and interpret life's visual symphonies." Through July 18. Rickard. "With a Little Help From My Friends."

MIKE KANE Underwater photography and paper cuts for bird sculptures. Through July 31 at *Left Bank Home & Garden* in Burlington. Info: 861-8382.

JOEY BARTLEY Abstract oil paintings. Info: 14-484-8888. **JOHN MCKINNON** "Abstract landscape" color photographs. **ELIZABETH MCGLOTHLIN** "Abstract landscape" color photographs. Info: 862-4170.

SHARON FORD "Developing Imagery City Centers" Through July 2 at *Peri Gallery* in Burlington. Info: 857-1870.

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MARSHALL MANN "Conceptual art, oil paintings and poetry by Roy Bennett artist." Through August 24 at *Flower Street* in Burlington. Info: 859-8230.

STUDIO GROUP SHOW Paintings, photography, sculpture and work by Anne Peppers, Ben LeFevre, George Galt, and a group of Vermont artists. Through June 30 at *The Green Chair Studio* in Burlington. Info: 363-3095.

SURFACE SHOW Works by Joan Hoffman, Lyndie McIntyre, Johnnie Duncan, Dennis Arne, Catherine de la Cour, and a group of Vermont artists. Through September 30 at *Plasma Building* in Burlington. Info: 862-7898.

THEATRE ARTIST & THEATRE ARTIST "Theatrical Art & the Theatre" Through June 30 at *North Vermont Art* in Burlington. Info: 862-4170.

THE NEW FLOOR SHOW New work by artists who occupy the floor of Burlington's historic Spoke Center. Info: 862-7898.

THE LONELY SHOWCASE Works by the artists who occupy the lonely ginger ale factory. Through June 30 at *the SPA, LLC* in Burlington. Info: 363-3095.

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JAMIE EYRE: "Wash Place" with 1000's of wash prints. **THOMAS STRONG:** Painted portraits of nature and animal to men. Through June 14. Through August 24 at Cottage-Museum Library in Montpelier. Info: 222-3338.

ANNEAL GUNN: Paints seascapes, fantasy and dreams. Through July 6 at Carlsberg Art Gallery & Flea Market in Montpelier. Info: 229-4836.

KATHARINA RAY-CHAMBERLAIN: "Spinning Room" watercolor, oil paintings and prints. Through June 30 at Looking Glass Gallery in Plainfield. Info: 464-1283.

OLAVIE PRINCE: Works by a variety of artists. Through June 30 at Two Rivers Pottery Studio in White River Junction. Info: 262-5903.

STEWART-GLOFFER: Montpelier School. All of Life Photographs of a Montpelier River "Scene" landscapes, water color, and silent scenes. Through July 1 at Capital Gardens in Montpelier. Info: 262-0703/933-5000.

SAM TULLOCH-BELL: "SOLLO" garments made from bull moose pelt and skins. Through June 30 at Sunset Sculpture in Montpelier. Info: 223-4302.

SCIENCE-ART: A science and visual arts fusion. **NICHOLAS BELL:** Local, black and white. **Barbara Ann Carrasco:** Digital tapestries. Through July 1 at Studio Place Arts in Montpelier. Info: 475-5363.

"THE HISTORY OF EDWARD COLLEGE: AN ERA OF GROWTH, EXPANSION AND TRANSITION, 1868-1918" Photographs, films and archival documents focused on the radical innovation programs created at Middlebury College. Through June 20 at 610-21 North Liberty Street in Montpelier. Info: 464-8337.

THREE EXHIBITION: Original artwork by individual art student students. Through June 18 at 225 North River Junction. Info: 262-3336.

"TOLDOPO-BUKETI-PHAKALASHA-RUSIAN-GRUY-PLASHI" Russian and Soviet Imperial medals make up this exhibit chronicling the history of Russia's Revolution, which spanned from 1917 to 1924. Through Sept. 2 at South Museum Building Center Research University in Burlington. Info: 465-2363.

"VERMOREL VERMONT" Vermont photographs donated from antique glass plate negatives dating between 1811 and 1920. Through June 18 at Federal Library in Montpelier. Info: 464-6882.

"WALTER DODDING FRASURE: HIS LIFE, WORK AND IMPERANCE" Craftsman and architect Frasure is man who designed numerous buildings in the Montpelier area. Includes glassware and many other items objects. Through August 21 at Montpelier Museum Industrial Design in Montpelier. Info: 464-2787.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SHOWS: 9-11 PM



"Impressed: Vermont Printmakers 2012"

Printmakers around the state are pushing the limits of the medium. Ten of the most intriguing artists are part of a new show at Stavro's Helen Bay Art Center through September 9. Sarah Ames, an Acton-based living in Fairfield, Vt., uses maps and data from her home country to create mesmerizing, almost surreal, imagery. Bill DeGaris, who splits his time between Wisconsin and New York City, addresses the September 11 terrorist attacks in his spare geometric prints. Burlington artist Robb Argo, who has a background as a scientific illustrator, renders plants and organic forms. "Albrecht Dürer approves, and beauty abounds," writes KEMC director Nathan Stone, who created the show. Patricia "Double Brand" by Ames.



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art



Zelde Grimm In the wild world of Zelde Grimm's pen-and-ink drawings, you never know what you might find. It might be a hapless Gov. Peter Shumlin lifting weights inside the belly of a hairy bear. It could be a bunny working on its manners at a typewriter inside a snail. You might even find a tiny man playing the saxophone on a grassy knoll inside a mouse. Grimm calls her work "highly macabre but highly whimsical." We dare you to make it through her show, "Animals With Things Going in Their Stomachs," at Burlington's Speaking Volumes without a good chuckle. Through July 31. Pictured: "Mouse With Saxophone Player on a Grassy Knoll."

CENTRAL VERMONT-KITZ

champlain valley

GOLF SUMMER HIGHLIGHT: EXHIBIT & DOUBLE B GOLF FINALISTS Join us tomorrow to watch as Vermont's Finest in this year's Double B Golf competition. Through July 24 at Chaffee Art Center in Rutland. Info: 775-5205.

25TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS SHOW Host a variety of exhibits by members of the nonprofit arts-and-entertainment. Through July 1 at Claring Studio and Studio Art Center in West Rutland. Info: 458-3391.

DAVID HALL Landscapes rendered in oil and glowing on wood panels. Through June 22 at Vermont's Restaurants in Newbury. Info: 455-4309.

DOUGLAS MCADAMS "A View From the Rustic View," photographs and audio stories from the remarkable San Diego seamount. Through September 8 at Vermont Public Library in Middlebury. Info: 388-4964.

LENTHILLHOUSE President's photographic portraits of area residents. Through June 30 at Cataraugus Auto Center in St. Johnsville. Info: Tel. 743-030.

LEONARDO PASTER "Out of this World" works by the Vermont faunist. **LEONARDO** Contemporary landscapes. **KAROLINA KAWKA** 2-D and 3-D drawn up. Through June 5 at Art Gallery and Art Center in Lakewood, N.H. Info: 603-448-3377

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for the
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Semester

Curser, Pulled Again

Police could not help but arrest Michigan
Mason Kelly, 33, in Jefferson County,
Texas, after the Lamar University student,
Trentwood, "I will give a warrant in
Portland... These guys will NEVER catch
me!"... KNEW&RRE it was only a matter
warrant, but Mason Kelly "kind of put it
out there, didn't she?" Buddy Miller of
the Lamar police department said after
transforming custody to Portland officers.
"It's a pretty good theory that there was
probably more effort in this case" (*Stam-*
ford Enterprise)

Police accused Joshua Hughes, 25, of
hiding in the University of Oklahoma.
Lynch's Lane Library North after hours
and setting fire to three books. Hughes
was arrested after he called 911 for help
but none he couldn't find his way out of
the library when the fire started. The
only damage was the three burned books.
(*Associated Press*)

Litigation Nation

When William Martinez, 31, was a con-
sultant in Germany, Gu, about chest pain
that indicated one his arms, the con-
sultant determined the man was at "high
risk" of having clogged heart arteries.
He ordered a nuclear stress test to be
done in eight days. The day before the
test, Martinez said a friend had sex with
a woman who was not his wife. He died
shortly after the diagnosis. Martinez's
widow and their two children sued the
cardiologist, insisting he should have had
Martinez tested immediately or at least it
would have to reveal physical exertion.
A jury awarded the family \$1 million.
(*Greenwich Daily Post*)

Another Nail in Journalism's Coffin

Roberts as, being taught to write on an
shorts. Programmers at Chicago-based
Narrative Science have developed com-
puter algorithms that initially produced
wire summaries of reports, games and
stock market news but have advanced
to learning business suitability, combining
them to recognize a team's strong perfor-
mance or pick up on trends and details
that human reporters might miss. Robot
reporters are already getting bylines
for coverage decreed at Forbes.com.
(*Wired*)

Infamous Firsts

Police say arrested Chad Lee Land-
ley, 40, in Fargo, N.D., identified him as
the first person in North Dakota to be
charged with pranking. "We are not
going to tolerate this." Lt. Joel Vetterli an-
nounced. (*Fargo's WDAF-TV*)

Retired judge Jacques Delisle, accused of
seducing his wife of 30 years, was identi-
fied as the first member of Canada's
judiciary to stand trial on such a serious
charge. Authorities said Delisle was be-

ing a double life and serving his secretary
who, partially paralyzed Marie Nicole
Kosciuk, 75, was found dead at the
couple's Quebec City apartment with a
revolver lying beside her. Delisle called
9-1-1 and reported the death as a suicide.
When the coroner asked him if Kosciuk
had mentioned taking her own life, Delisle
answered, "It's a long story." (CBC
News)

Igniting Outrage

Critics to Fukushima, Kyrgyzstan objected
after three longtime "nuclear firms" was
expatriated for five hours. The 28-year
old firms, a tribute to Soviet soldiers who
died in World War II, built in Victory
Square in front of a statue of a woman
symbolizing those who served, for forced
work to rebuild from the war. Kyrgyzstan
officials, deputy director of the state-
owned energy supplier Kyrgyzstan, ex-
plained the gas was shut off because the
local government's unpaid bills inside
\$9400. After the incident was reported
abroad, Kyrgyzstan officials re-explained
that the gas had actually been turned off
for other reasons. (*Washington Times*)

Salesmanship Follies

During a tour of six Asian countries,
Russia's newest car online, the Sub-
aru Super 100, took passengers on
a demonstration flight. In Indonesia, the
demostrator's engine died, but on
its second flight later that day, it dis-
appeared 20 minutes after takeoff with
flaps over a water runway in Jakarta.
The crash killed all 45 on board. Earlier
this year, two Superjet 100s operated by
Russian Aeroflot had to make unsched-
uled landings because of faulty landing
gear. (CNN)

Computer Justice

A computer glitch resulted in 1200 con-
sumers being summoned for jury duty all
at once at the Placer County Court. The
system's error caused a rare traffic jam
on Interstate 80 in Auburn as 100 of the
jurers actually showed up for the 4 p.m.
Thursday session. Court executives officer
Giovanni Bazzoli explained the technical er-
ror caused the justice-management system
to go into default mode, "and we were
aware that default mode was to call in
every jury panel we had scheduled for
the week." Although Bazzoli added, "We
spoke up proactively," the people who
showed up were informed that they'd
still have to show up on their real sched-
uled day. Sacramento's KNVR-TV

Instant Karma

Even though Spain's King Juan Carlos,
74, is honorary president of the Spanish
branch of the World Wildlife Fund, in
April he made a secret trip to Botswana
to hunt elephants. While on his way,
the monarch fell and broke his hip. (Assoc-
iated Press)



Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

From an astrological perspective, it's the New Year season; you're beginning a fresh cycle. How would you like to celebrate? You could make a few resolutions — maybe pledge to wear jeans after a wonderful habit or self-sabotaging vice. You could also invite the universe to show you what you don't even realize you need to know. What might also be interesting would be to compose a list of the good habits you will promise to cultivate, and the ingenious levers through you will work toward, and the shaggy yet pretty dreams you will court and woo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's time for your right hand to find out what your left hand has been doing lately and vice versa. They've been attending to their opposite a great deal for a while, and now it would be wise to have them work together more closely. As they get accustomed, a bit of friction would be understandable. You may have to serve as a mediator. Try to get them to play nicely with each other like a wild before jumping into the negotiations about how best they can cooperate in the future. And for very few with them, no stopping or fighting allowed.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Some

relationships that you call "friendship" may be little more than useful connections or status liaisons or affections that enhance your power and influence. There's no shame in that, but it's also a smart idea to make sure that at least some of your alliances are rooted primarily in pure affection. You need to exchange energy and thoughts that don't serve your interests so much as they feed your ego. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to cultivate friendships like that. Take good care of those you have, and be alert for the possibility of making a new one.

Cancer (June 21-July 20) Another storm. Corey describes your "crisis of concern" as everything "you're concerned with or scared about," but "crisis of influence" on the other hand is anything that's within your ability to change right now. For example, you may have general concerns, questions or anxieties about the future of your health. That's your crisis of concern, but your crisis of influence contains specific actions you can take to affect your health today like eating good food, getting enough sleep and doing exercise that is fun and easy for you. Cancerian is that the coming weeks will be an excellent time to spend less time in your crisis of concern and more in your crisis of influence. Stop fantasizing about what may or may not happen, and simply take charge of the details that will make a difference.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 22) There's a wild zoo about two hours northwest of Seattle. After paying your fee, you can drive your car through a series of gates where large animals are allowed to roam free. When I took the tour, I stopped my rented Dodge Stratus by the side of the road to get a better look at a handsome buffalo with a humped back and a long wavy beard. It lumbered over to where I was parked and for the next five minutes thoroughly looked my way while I took pictures and people talked. My head went into and out of my car's primal power, and I was both relaxed and perfectly aroused. I wouldn't be surprised if you had a comparable experience sometime late June.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 20) In the biblical text of Genesis, Jacob had a dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder that went

up to heaven. I recommend that you try to imitate a similar dream or live out some meditations in which you visualize that ascent. It would help prime your psyche for one of this week's assignments, which is to be adaptable as you go back and forth between very high places and very low places. Heaven and earth need to be better connected, so do the heavenly and the dust-as-they are, as well as the dust and the physical. And you're the right person for the job.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Thomas talked about something to the effect that a person who is thoroughly satisfied is probably a failure. I guess he meant that if you're not always pushing to make your life better, you must not have very high standards or passionate goals. While I can see the large grains of truth in that theory, I don't think it applies in all cases — like far you right now, for instance. During the upcoming grace period, it will behoove you to be perfectly content with the state of your life just as it is. To do so won't mean you lay and complain. Just the opposite. In fact, it will change your psychic batteries and create a reservoir of emotional energy for the second half of 2021.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 20) Twenty-five years old actress Amyllynn McDonnell has a reputation against what she calls "hollywood perfectionism." Lately she has been really suffering. In 2018, without any warning, she lost even about eight pounds to the shape of her in her natural state. "I'm not perfect," she says, "and that's OK with me." I remember her to be a role model in the coming weeks. Scorpio: You will be able to let us up to life through your self by being loyal to the new truth. You can gain power by not hiding anything. (And you, I realized, had a statement in a conflict with the core Scorpioan principle.) Hence, my prediction: It'll be fun to be free of unrealistic images and showy displays.

Sagittarius (Nov. 21-Dec. 20) Nineteenth-century Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev once called his fellow novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky a "jerk on the face of humanity." But more than a hundred years after that crude dismissal, Dostoevsky is a much more highly regarded and influential

writer than Turgenev. Use this as inspiration. Sometimes if you have to deal with an unpleasant appearance of you in the coming days, their opinions will say more about them than about you. Refresh your understanding of the phenomenon of "projection," in which people superimpose their fears and delusions on to you to deal with their own.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19) Take a few deep breaths. It's important not to go overly worked up about your recent diversion from the truth, and the way I mean it's not the you took some high school classes or dumped love, even if it's a real-life situation. Right? It's true that you've incurred a major karmic debt that will ultimately have to be repaid. And yes, you've been reminded that you can't allow yourself to lower your standards more slightly, but I doubt any of it will matter in five years — especially if you alone now go on to go ahead and give yourself a quarter of a million-dollar plan to correct your error and start creating in the world the next chapter of your life story.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Have you ever tried to drink from a fire hose? The sheer amount and force of the water shooting out the end makes it hard to actually get any moisture in your mouth, let alone grasp the nozzle. On the other hand, it is kind of interesting and it does provide a lot of material to tell family members about later on. But are there good enough reasons to go ahead and do it? I say no. That's why I advise you, Aquarian, only sparingly to draw your sustenance from a more contained flow in the coming week. Cultivate a relationship with a resource that gives you what you really need.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) The coming week will be an excellent time to declare your independence from anything that depresses you, obstructs you or oppresses you. You will attract help from unexpected sources if you take that deeper action. At the same time, it'll be a perfect moment to declare your independence with anything that lines up your misperceptions, stills up your nose or fills you with a desire to look at misadventures. Be as virtuous as you dream about clothing your members with the very best influences.

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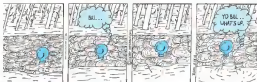
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